Erap cronies accused of fomenting class war

STORY ON PAGE A2

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- **China vows to take Taiwan 'at any cost'** WORLD / A11
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2001 ★★ 64 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 139 ₱15

IN *Saturday* SPECIAL
- **Steven Seagal reenters film scene with 'Exit Wounds'**
- **Matt Dillon's directorial debut**
- **Sharon Cuneta's new album of old songs**

SEAGAL

"THE PRESIDENT is worried," admits the Palace, but not about the launching of "Poor People Power" by Estrada supporters, only about the "bad signals" that these send abroad. JOAN BONDOC

Pulse survey: 8-5 for PPC; Macapagal ratings plunge

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE LATEST survey of Pulse Asia Inc. showed that it's still 8-5 in favor of the administration-backed Senate slate of the People Power Coalition.

But the net approval rating of President Macapagal-Arroyo declined from +48 in March to +22 this month.

The survey was conducted April 16-20.

"But we have something going on now in Edsa where people are claiming they are also mounting this time People Power III and poor people power at that," said the Pulse Asia president, Felipe Miranda.

Pulse Asia incorporator Ana Marie Tabunda described the rallies in Edsa as a "very unanticipated shock which you cannot measure until you go to the street" and ask respondents anew.

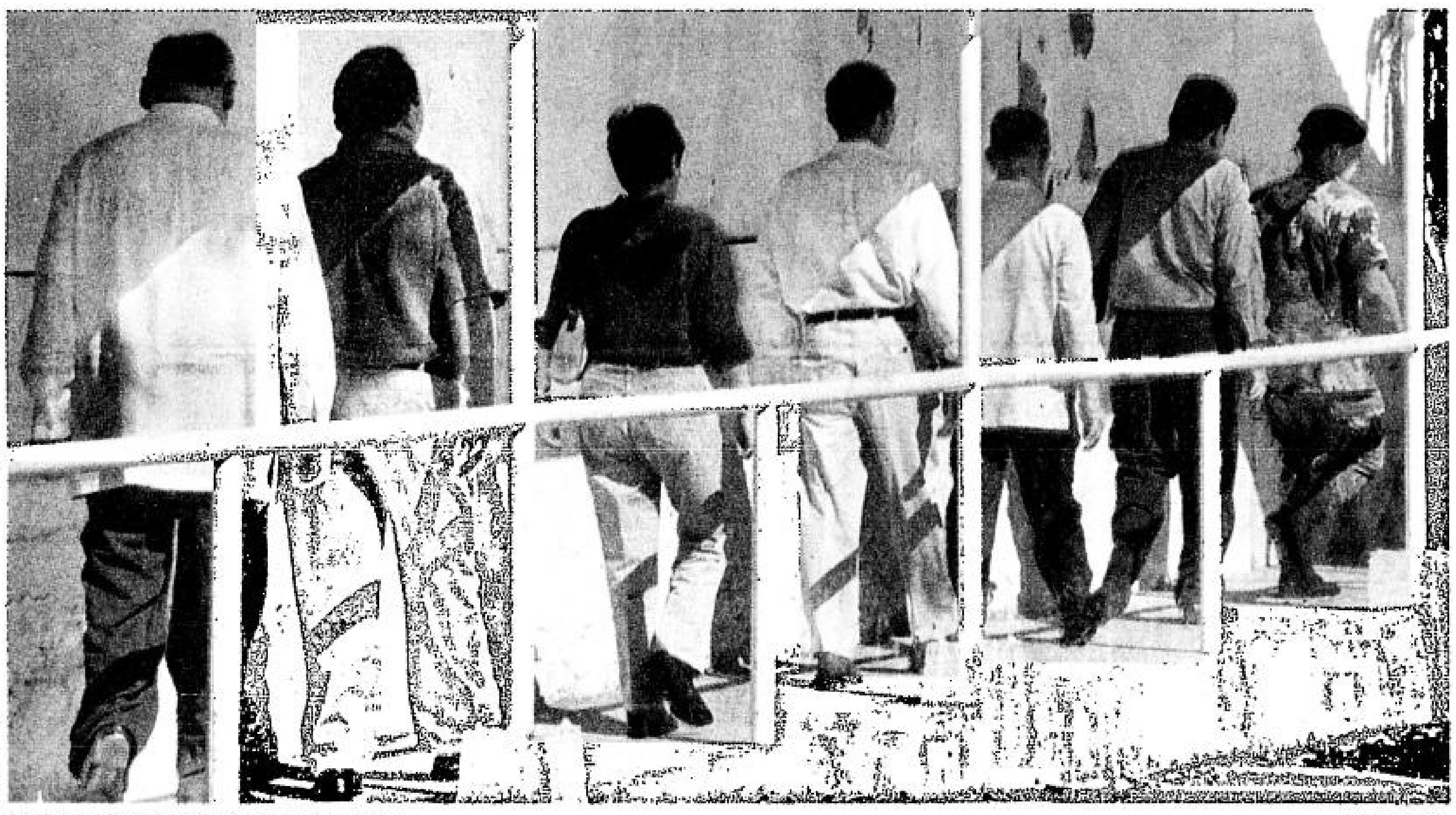
Noli de Castro, whom Tabunda dubbed as in a "class by himself," ranked 1 with an awareness rating of 98 percent and with 64.5 percent of the respondents voting for him.

In all aspects of the survey, De Castro was way ahead of the candidates except in voting by ethnicity (dialect-based), where PPC candidate Frank Drilon topped him

PULSE/ A20

AFP, PNP on red alert

Gloria holds emergency meeting with generals at Palace



BACK TO THE FUTURE, IF ANY ERIK ARAZAS

All the (ex) President's men make their way to visit on Thursday the country's most prominent detainee: From left, Jerry Barican, Ronaldo Zamora, Lenny de Jesus, Benjamin Diokno, Gregorio Vigilar and Ramon Cardenas

By Carlito Pablo, Christine Herrera and Donna Cueto

THE PHILIPPINE National Police and the Armed Forces have declared a "nationwide red alert" amid unverified claims by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada that military officers had defected to the opposition.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes flatly denied the alleged defections and said that the Armed Forces was "solid" in its support of the government.

"The situation is very much under control," he told GMA-7 in a phone interview.

"The PNP is in a heightened status (red alert) and we have adequate forces to deal with whatever situation arises," the PNP chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza, said in a statement.

Last night, President Macapagal-Arroyo held an unscheduled meeting with several generals led by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva. Mendoza was also reportedly present.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that the President and the generals were closely monitoring developments, and stressed that the government was "prepared" for any eventuality.

Maj. Michael Manquiquis, spokesperson of the Armed Forces Visayas Command (Viscom) based in Cebu City, confirmed that the entire Viscom had been put on red alert status since Thursday.

Former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado admitted that Estrada supporters would enlist the support of the military.

"There will be an effort," he said when asked whether the Estrada camp would court the military.

But he said Estrada, whom he called "President," was "not at all egging anybody. He is more concerned with his legal problems."

As then defense secretary, Mercado was one of those who withdrew military support from Estrada at the height of People Power II. But it didn't take long before he returned to the good graces of the disgraced former President.

Mercado, a senatorial candidate,

AFP/ A20

EVEN the most openhanded of the ex-presidential sons, JV Ejercito, is now up in arms. ERIK ARAZAS

Sin laments desecration of Edsa Shrine

By Donna S. Cueto and Christian V. Esguerra

"FATHER, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday assailed supporters of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada for "profaning" the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong, and called them "impolite and discourteous guests on Catholic property."

Church activist Fr. Joe Dizon went further, urging Sin as Archbishop of Manila to issue an edict declaring the shrine "desecrated" to force the protesters to leave.

"I am sad for what they have done to the Edsa Shrine," Sin said in a statement.

The influential Church leader called on the mostly Catholic populace to "offer reparation for this act of profanation" with a special prayer, which he said should be held after Mass this weekend.

SIN/ A20

Jail good for Estrada's health

By Christine Herrera

AFTER his second night behind bars, ousted President Joseph Estrada found that imprisonment was apparently good for his health: his blood pressure had fallen to 140/80, which is within normal range.

But never in his worst nightmares did he expect to end up in prison, Estrada told former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado when the latter paid him a visit at his Camp Crame jail cell on Thursday night.

Former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr., who visited Estrada yesterday, found supreme irony in the fact that he was meeting his arrested former boss in the jail of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, which they had headed for two and a half years.

Lacson used the word "paradox" to describe the irony of the situation, but no one corrected him.

Estrada, Lacson said, was concerned about the growing crowd of his supporters at the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong.

"He knows what is happening outside. He monitors (the rally) through his small transistor radio," the opposition senatorial candidate said.

JAIL/ A21

Erap transfer to Laguna up in the air

By Martin P. Marfil and Christine Herrera

FACED with the clear and present danger from supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada storming Camp Crame and springing him from jail, the Sandiganbayan yesterday granted the request of the police that Estrada and his son Jinggoy be transferred to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Malacañang welcomed the Sandiganbayan decision but Estrada's lawyers said they would oppose the transfer by filing a petition with the Supreme Court. They admitted that the petition was "*suntok sa buwan* (a long shot)."

"In the paramount interest of the state and of all concerned, more particularly the accused, the court resolves in the event of imminent danger sought to be avoided, to grant (the chief of the Philippine National Police) the provisional authority to exercise his discretion on the matter," the Sandiganbayan's third division said in a written order.

The PNP, however, must inform the anti-graft court and Estrada's lawyers at least one hour before the Estradas are transferred.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, the PNP chief, said Estrada would be transferred by helicopter to Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna this weekend.

Mendoza said the trip would take from 15 to 20 minutes.

Estrada's well-being

"The main consideration here is the well-being and security of

ERAP/ A4

EDSA SCENE

Sea of humanity yields 5 trucks of trash

By Blanche Rivera

HUMANS—and human waste—are scattered on the pavement. The air is vivid with the stench and spill of urine and phlegm. Mats and folding beds abound. Litter is everywhere.

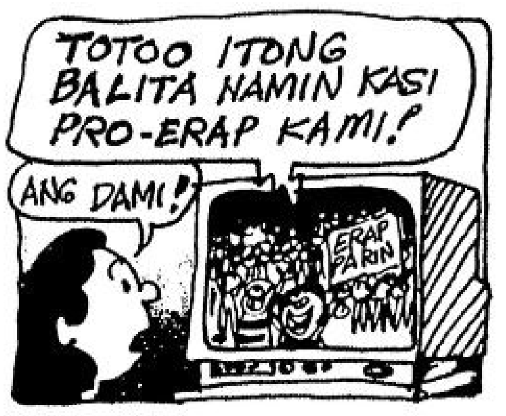
The Edsa Shrine, site of two historic uprisings and declared holy ground by the Vatican, has literally become home and stomping ground for Joseph Estrada's loyalists.

Security personnel of the Edsa Shrine closed the chapel door nearest the stage after the loyalists massed outside the chapel and rocked to the entertainment provided on stage by sexy performers such as Alma Concepcion and Criselda Vox.

Since thousands of loyalists started keeping vigil at the shrine Wednesday night, garbage has piled up. Passersby who checked out the protest action had to fight from throwing up at the sight of the trash and the human waste, which were already drying up in the heat.

Empty water bottles, banana peels, corn cobs, barbecue sticks, plastic bags and other food refuse littered the area.

SEA/ A4



TOTOO ITONG BALITA NAMIN KASI PRO-ERAP KAMI!
ANG DAMI!
ERAP PARIN

Net 25: 'Biased but not seditious'

By Donna S. Cueto and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG is piqued by the "bias" in the NET 25-dzEC coverage of the continuing assembly of Joseph Estrada's loyalists at Edsa.

However, President Macapagal-Arroyo's

NET 25/ A20

DAPAT LANG NA MADINIG NG GOBYERNO ANG MAHIHIRAP!

'Erap pals fomenting class war'

By Christian V. Esguerra, Philip C. Tubeza
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

CRONIES of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada are fomenting a class war and inter-religious conflict to protect their "economic fortunes" since they have "nothing to gain and everything to lose" now that their patron is behind bars.

Activist groups said this was the main reason pro-Estrada demonstrators have massed at the Edsa Shrine since Wednesday following the former president's arrest.

Another reason the pro-Estrada crowd remains at Edsa, the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II (Kompil II), said is that opposition Puwersa ng Masa candidates are turning the protest into a "miting de avance" (political meeting) to boost their chances in the May 14 elections.

'Legitimate act'

But, Kompil II conceded, like People Powers I and II pro-Estrada groups are also at Edsa in a "legitimate act of redress of grievance."

"We will not play the numbers game with them, however, or fight them tooth for tooth," said Dan Songco of Kompil II.

Instead, Songco said, we will stage a series of rallies up to May 1 to push for the legitimate concerns of the predominantly poor crowd at Edsa.

Other militant groups warned the Macapagal administration against striking a deal with the detained Estrada in the face of the massive protest by his supporters at Edsa.

"There is absolutely no way we will allow Estrada to be sprung free and excused from the punishment he so richly deserves," said Crispin Beltran, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

"He must remain incarcerated, his arraignment and trial must proceed immediately and he should soon begin serving his new career as the first Philippine president to be convicted." Beltran said.

'No moral grounds'

Satur Ocampo, president of Bayan Muna, said President Macapagal-Arroyo should stay firm and resist any moves by the ousted leader to return to Malacañang via a people power-type revolt.

Ocampo said the so-called Edsa III being waged by Estrada supporters was bereft of moral, political and legal grounds.

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya admonished Estrada loyalists to abandon their support of the disgraced president, saying they don't deserve a "tyrant and plunderer like Estrada."

"How can Estrada speak for the poor? He lived like a king and an untouchable aristocrat and made a big fortune from an array of criminal enterprises during his 31 months in office," said Gerry Albert Corpuz, Pamalakaya spokesperson.

Pamalakaya said the people gathered at Edsa should divert their energies into looking for jobs, food, basic services, decent housing and fighting for their rights.

Beltran accused Estrada and his cronies of funding the protests at Edsa.

"They are using ill-gotten wealth, money stolen from the Filipino people, to pay those desperate and misled Estrada supporters and use them as shields against his prosecution and conviction," Beltran said.

"The likes of Eduardo Cojuangco, Juan Ponce Enrile, Dong Puno and other multi-millionaire cronies of Estrada are gambling their massive wealth in this despicable, grotesque parody of people power all in an effort to get Estrada out of jail," he said.

'Moral response'

For its part, the moderate Kompil II said it would concentrate on "cautious, gentle and moral actions" in response to the Edsa rally, including candle-lighting ceremonies and prayers for the "enlightenment" of the pro-Estrada crowd.

For a start, militant youth groups yesterday held a noise barrage dubbed "Erap Litisin, Edsa Linisin" in key areas of Metro Manila to condemn the "desecration" of the shrine by Estrada supporters.

Kompil II and groups like Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Akbayan, Gomburza, Council on Philippine Affairs and other key Edsa II players met yesterday at the University of the Philippines Chapel to determine their course of action following the massive turnout of Estrada supporters at Edsa.

During the meeting, the groups recognized that many protesters went to Edsa to voice out the problems of the urban poor.

Instead of staging a parallel protest action, the groups said they would hold rallies up to May 1 to urge the government to look into the plight of the poor and implement effective anti-poverty policies.

'Ignored'

Stage director Behn Cervantes of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines pointed out at the meeting that not all those present at Edsa were paid to join the protest.

"The crowd also included the poor who have long been ignored," he said.

The activist groups agreed, however, that the poor had unwittingly allowed themselves to be used by Estrada and the opposition candidates for their own political ends.

Apolonia Tolentino of the party-list group AKO said the poor were the victims of pro-Estrada politicians who are trying to paint the situation as a battle between Estrada and President Macapagal, the rich against the poor.

"It is time we brought sanity to our country by educating Erap's supporters about law enforcement," Kompil II said.

Fr. Joe Dizon, spokesperson of the Estrada Resign Movement, said, "People power is not a crusade intended to bring a criminal back to Malacañang."

While the militant group Sanlakas refrained from criticizing the pro-Estrada groups at Edsa, it urged the poor to finally realize that Estrada is a "false messiah" and that he and his allies were only using the masses for their own selfish interests.

"We may share the same sentiment that the two Edsa revolts failed to fulfill the aspirations of the masses, but to launch Edsa III just to bring Estrada back to power would be a bigger tragedy compared to Macapagal," said Wilson Fortaleza, Sanlakas national president.

"If we are to launch People Power III, it should be for the interests of the masses and not for Estrada," he added.

Some 100,000 Sanlakas and Partido ng Manggagawa members are going to gather at the People Power Monument on May 1, Labor Day. While the monument is near the shrine, Fortaleza said they are not going to clash with the Estrada supporters.

"We are not going to fight them. The ranks of the masses should not be divided and used as cannon fodder by competing factions of the elite," he said.

With reports from Mae Lorraine Rafols

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BSP vows to defend peso

"EDSA 3," staged by the followers of arrested ex-President Joseph Estrada, is taking its toll on the Philippine peso which is under pressure because of perceptions of political instability. ERIK ARAZAS

THE CENTRAL bank yesterday assured the public that it would not hesitate to intervene in the foreign exchange market to prop up the peso should the political situation worsen.

But Rafael Buenaventura, the governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said it was not yet necessary to intervene to defend the peso which has fallen to over P51 to the US dollar, a level not seen since January.

Buenaventura said the peso's decline was mainly caused by the weakness of regional currencies and political instability and was likely to be temporary.

Yesterday there was no need to rescue the peso as it bounced back to P50.87 to $1, from P51 the other day.

The BSP said it was completely out of the market yesterday even as trading volume rose to $152.15 million, from $132.35 million last Thursday.

Traders said, however, that if the protest demonstrations by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada persist, the peso could further weaken to the P52 to $1 level once trading resumes next week.

"The weakening of the peso has primarily been driven by regional weakness," Buenaventura said in a radio interview adding this was due to the slowdown in the United States and Japanese economies.

"The recent events in the last two days have not helped at all . . . as it gives a sense of political instability," Buenaventura said in a television interview.

He said the political tension had accelerated the weakness of the peso by another 50 centavos.

"As you have noticed, there has been an additional 50-centavo premium . . . it's temporary and I think eventually it should revert back when it comes to this premium that is being charged for this so-called uncertainty," he said.

The governor admitted that some international finance officials and foreign bankers are concerned that the unrest, if prolonged, could lead to violence.

The BSP governor explained that investors' fears were similar to those experienced during the People Power uprising in January that ousted Estrada and brought President Macapagal-Arroyo to power.

"Whenever there is unrest there is apprehension and foreign investors think this would escalate into violence and the situation creates uncertainty," said Buenaventura.

The BSP is confident, however, that for the moment no banks are speculating against the peso and there has been as yet no evidence of capital flight.

Industry sources said that even currency traders who usually take advantage of the peso's weakness to speculate and make money refrained "from playing the market" so as not to aggravate the situation.

"Its like traders have grown scruples overnight and they did not want to make the situation even worse than it already is," said a source in the banking industry.

One trader said the market may well believe that at P51.37 to $1, the peso was already oversold and so banks as well as investors took profit.

Buenaventura said he is trying to explain to foreign investors that protests are part of the country's democratic process and there was no chance of the situation deteriorating. He cited the peaceful uprising against Estrada in January.

"If the peso continues to depreciate while other regional currencies are already improving, then that's the time the BSP will step in. For the meantime, the people should stay calm," said the BSP governor.

He said there was no need to immediately raise the central banks overnight rates. The BSP's overnight borrowing currently stands at 9.5 percent and its overnight lending at 11.75 percent. *Clarissa S. Batino, with a report from Reuters*

Guingona may seek meeting with Aung Suu Kyi in Myanmar

VICE President and concurrent foreign secretary Teofisto Guingona could seek a meeting with Myanmar opposition leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi when he visits Yangon this weekend, official sources said yesterday.

Guingona is to fly to Bangkok today en route to a two-day visit to Yangon, which is hosting a foreign ministers meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in Yangon on Monday.

Guingona received activists opposed to the Myanmar rulers last week and the group urged him to seek a meeting with the Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi during the visit, foreign department sources said.

However, some foreign department officials discouraged the vice president from seeing the opposition leader, who is under house arrest. They warned him such a meeting could "do more harm than good," the sources added.

The Philippines and Myanmar, also known as Burma, are members of Asean along with Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

In a letter to Guingona, Sein Win, exiled Prime Minister of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, said Suu Kyi, who is his cousin, "would very much welcome a visit from you."

According to him, a visit by Guingona on Suu Kyi, who has been on house arrest, would keep alive the Burmese democracy movement.

As a Vice President, Guingona would be the highest ranking official among the foreign ministers who will attend the one-day retreat.

According to Win, a visit by Guingona on the Nobel Peace Laureate may help revive talks between the opposition leader and the ruling State Peace and Development Council of Myanmar which were "on the verge of breakdown."

"It would be appropriate that you, as a very senior representative of an Asean nation, should play a key role in sustaining the dialogue," Win said.

Win sent his letter to Guingona from Norway where he is attending a forum. He has been based in Washington D.C. since going on exile when the military seized control of the government in 1988.

In Manila, the Initiatives for International Dialogue, Free Burma Coalition, Amnesty International and Sosyalistang Partido ng Paggawa hailed Guingona's decision to seek an audience with Suu Kyi.

"The GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) administration has been catapulted to governance by our astonishing democratic people power," said the statement. "By meeting Suu Kyi—or not going to Burma at all—Guingona will only be enhancing this unique Filipino grace." *Rocky Nazareno with AP report*

KMU to join May 1 rites in Palace

RIVALS Kilusang Mayo Uno and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino have been invited by Malacañang to join President Macapagal-Arroyo for the May 1 Labor Day celebration.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, in a statement, said the "simple" rites in Malacañang will be attended by KMU chair Crispin Beltran, Leody de Guzman of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Democratico Mendoza of the Labor Solidarity Movement, and representatives from other big labor groups and federations.

Sto. Tomas said a job and livelihood fair will also be held on May 1 at the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda) in Taguig, Metro Manila. *Gerald Lacuarta with Marionne Acabado*

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GMA vows to crush Ozamiz smugglers

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday asked businessmen to support her campaign to stop smuggling syndicates allegedly headed by former cronies of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In her speech before the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop), the President said she will kick off her campaign by crushing a rice and sugar smuggling syndicate based in Ozamiz City.

She said a new anti-smuggling task force being organized by her administration will "begin with the Ozamiz port because that is the most notorious port of entry for smuggling in the Philippines."

Reports reaching Malacañang said Ozamiz has become the entry port for smuggled rice, sugar and other goods.

The syndicate is reportedly run by the Kuratong Baleleng gang, which allegedly had the blessing of top police officials in the Estrada administration.

Lucio Lao Co, an Estrada crony who was linked to the ousted President's controversial business deals, had also been tagged as the country's biggest smuggler of fake cigarettes, chicken parts and duty-free goods.

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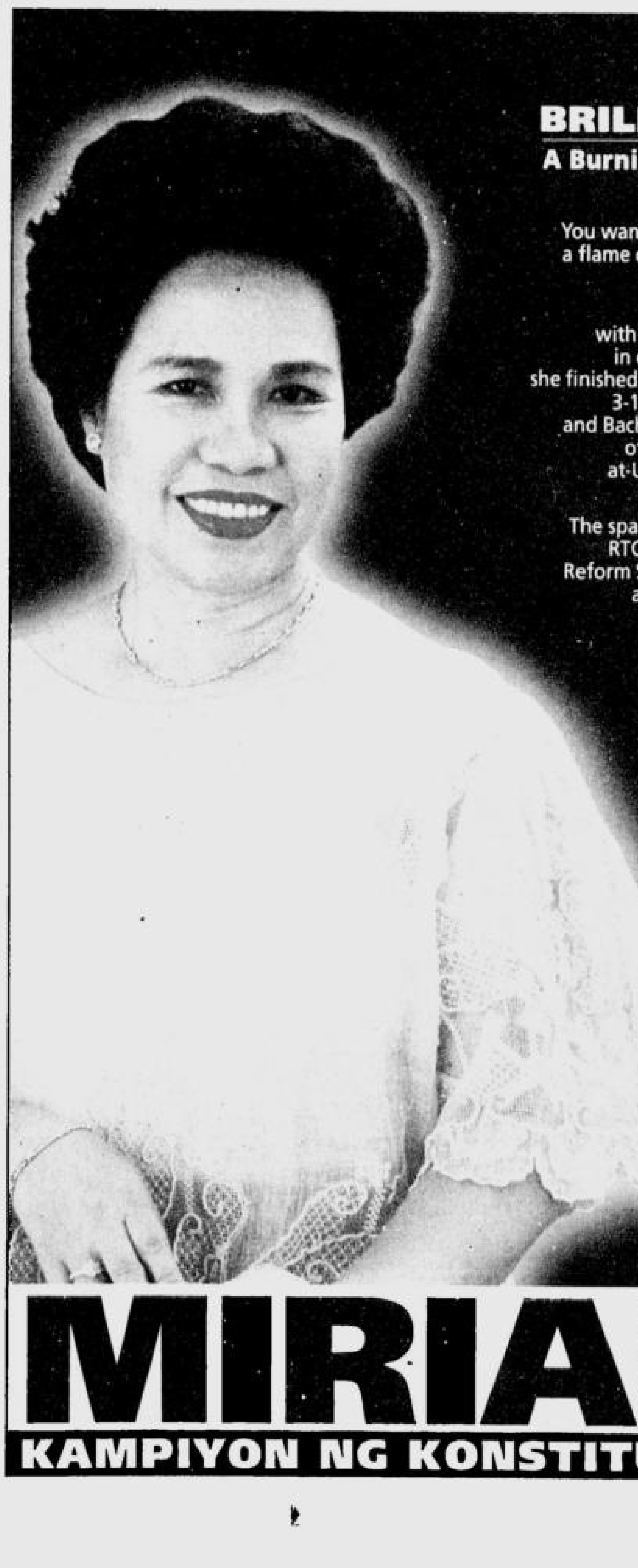

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Sea of humanity yields 5 trucks of trash

(From page A1)

Shoppers on their way to the Robinsons Galleria mall on Ortigas Avenue tried to keep as far away from the bulk of the crowd, which, according to a young Estrada supporter who had lost her cell phone to a snatcher, was composed mostly of vendors and other "suspicious-looking characters."

"It makes you feel bad," Jemimah Mendoza said in Filipino. "They don't know what they're fighting for, yet they insist on coming here."

Mendoza was one of 50 people from Cabanatuan City who arrived in a bus at the Edsa Shrine yesterday morning.

Rally organizers yesterday started securing the area holding the statue of Our Lady of Peace after portions of its fiberglass base collapsed from the weight of the loyalists who had forced their way to the top and replaced the Vatican flag with a pro-Estrada banner.

The area outside the shrine office that was used as media center during People Power II in January is now where couples are seen embracing on their folding beds.

Nearby, whole families have set up makeshift tents where they are now settled complete with pillows and kitchen utensils.

Before the organizers put up at least 15 portable toilets on Edsa, the loyalists did their thing on the street.

Although locked up in jail, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada has ordered the local officials left at the municipal hall to clean up the mess at the Edsa Shrine.

Councilor Rolando Bernardo, head of the Solid Waste Management team, said the mayor relayed the order on Thursday.

"We were supposed to start picking up the trash as early as Wednesday evening, but there was not enough space to move around because there were too many people," Bernardo said.

He said he had dispatched three garbage trucks and 40 street sweepers to clean up the protest site at 8 a.m. yesterday, when the crowd dwindled to about 1,500.

By noon, at least five truckloads of garbage had been hauled away, Bernardo added.

'No vandalism'

JV Ejercito, Estrada's son by former starlet Guia Gomez, yesterday denied that his father's supporters had desecrated the shrine.

"There is no vandalism, no cursing. It was the participants of Edsa II who did the damage," he said.

Asked about the garbage on the streets, Ejercito said: "Are you saying the masses are trash?"

Estrada's son urged the media to come and cover the continuing protests, saying the place was now safe. He also promised to set up a media center.

"Please understand that it was just an outburst of emotion because of the lack of justice and the oppression of my father," Ejercito said of earlier instances of harassment of the media.

He claimed that the residents of nearby Corinthian Gardens, an exclusive subdivision across from the Edsa Shrine, had provided the rice meals being distributed to the crowd.

But there are reports that the food was given by members of the Iglesia ni Cristo.

Ejercito acknowledged that he was "in a way" one of the leaders of the gathering of loyalists.

But he said he could not stop them from clamoring that his father be restored to power.

But while he claimed that the Estrada camp was "not inciting rebellion," he did not categorically discourage the idea either.

"The family now leaves our fate up to the people, (for the people) to judge whether what's happening is just," he said.

Asked for his comment on suggestions by some perceived leaders of the loyalists to march on Camp Crame and Malacañang, he refused to give a categorical reply.

"Why don't you just cover it? We're here to express what we're feeling and not to make trouble," he said, adding:

"All I can say is we're not (here) to incite rebellion or anything . . . It's up to the people to do what they want to do. I'm just (here) to see that there's order."

Asked what he would do if it became clear that the loyalists intended to overthrow the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, he said: "In Edsa II they said, 'Erap resign' (because) that's the will of the people, although it's just the minority. So we are not the one who started this.

"We can't predict what they'll do next. I told them to go home, but they didn't want to go home."

2 million

Rally organizers hope to see the crowd grow even bigger this weekend. Their ambitious target: two million.

A source from the Estrada camp said that contrary to what critics had perceived, it was "only yesterday" that leaders of the various pro-Estrada organizations began to act as a single, cohesive group in a meeting held at an office somewhere in the Ortigas area.

But as of press time yesterday, the source said, it was not yet clear "where we are taking the two million" if indeed a crowd of that size could be assembled "in the next two days."

"Two schools of thought were being entertained yesterday: to reinstall Estrada as president, or call for a 'snap' election after President Macapagal is forced to resign," the source said.

Loyalist actions are also reportedly being mobilized in the cities of Cebu and Davao.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III, campaign manager of the Estrada-backed Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa (LDP-PnM), said opposition leaders and allies of Estrada had agreed to "organize" the protests being held by his supporters at the Edsa Shrine.

"The plan last night is to look at how the protests can be organized," Sotto told reporters after conducting a Senate committee investigation into the alleged "illegal search" of the luggage of former first lady Luisa Ejercito and her son Jinggoy last Monday.

"But how can you take charge of hundreds of thousands of people? If you stand there, you can barely be heard. All they want to hear is Estrada's release," he said.

Sotto said the objective of organizing the protest rallies was to know what the protesters wanted—"what would appease them, what would make them cooperate with authority."

But Sotto was irked when asked if a sustained crowd at the Edsa Shrine could result in toppling the President.

"That is a very unfair question to answer because especially I don't think that question should be asked of an opposition leader," he said.

Asked what the objective of the organizing would then be, he was initially at a loss for words.

And then he picked up a word suggested by a print reporter: "That's it—orderly. Even the speakers, we will make them orderly."

Bad signals

The President is worried, not about the Edsa rallies, but about the "bad signals" these are sending abroad.

But she is still confident that in the end, "the right thing will happen," said her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"She's not really concerned," he said, adding that this was not yet a crisis situation.

Tiglao also said the people needed to be reminded that the President's centerpiece program was the uplift of the poor—the same sector which Estrada had promised economic gains.

Members of that sector are getting impatient.

"Is this going to take longer? Until when are we staying here?" an elderly woman at the Edsa Shrine said yesterday in Filipino.

She frowned and turned away when told by an organizer that the rally would last "until they free Erap." *With reports from Agnes E. Donato, Dona Z. Pazzibugan. Volt Contreras, Juliet L. Javellana and Donna S. Cueto*

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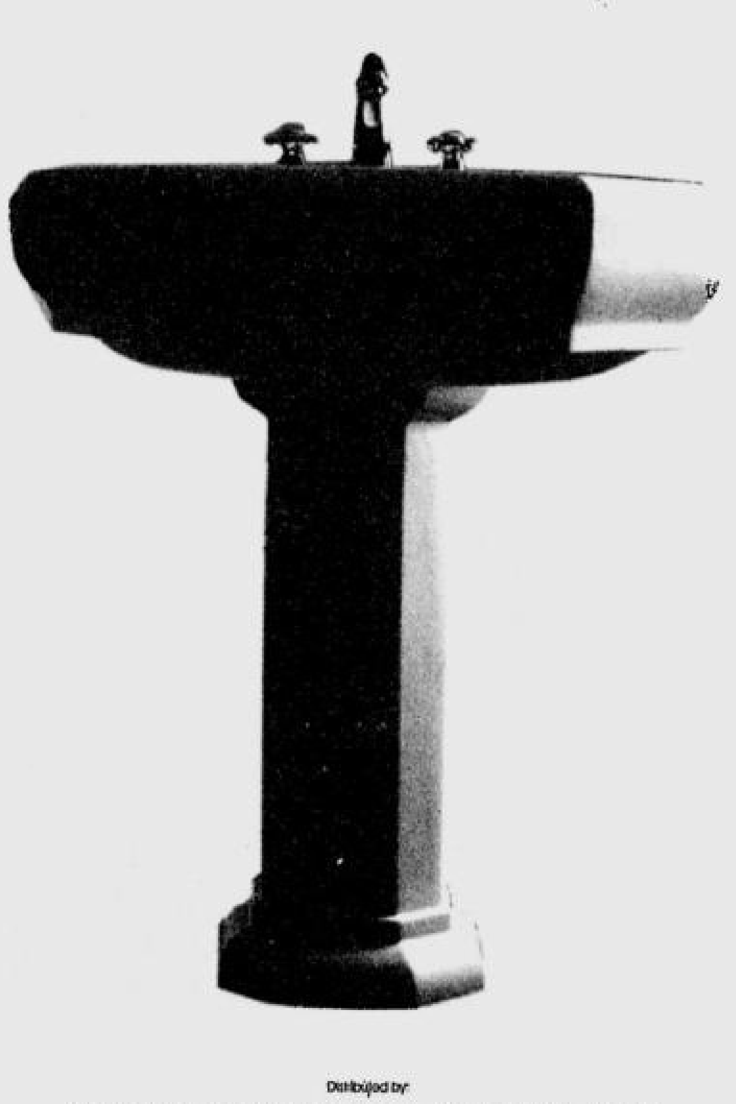

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Erap transfer . . .

(From page A1)

Estrada and the security of the state," Senior Supt. Doroteo Reyes, PNP chief legal counsel, said in a news conference.

At the Sandiganbayan, Mendoza told the three justices of the third division that the PNP had received reports that people were being mobilized throughout Luzon for the pro-Estrada rally at Edsa.

He disclosed that the protesters were given provisions good for three days and that some of them were agitating the crowd to storm Camp Crame, release Estrada and return him to Malacañang.

"We expect a heightened protest action this weekend, your honor. As a matter of fact, it is our experience that during weekends in Edsa II and Edsa I, the most number of people attend," he said in open court.

"The threat is real . . . The need (to transfer Estrada) is urgent," Mendoza said.

The court, chaired by Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., initially deferred issuing a ruling on Mendoza's request to transfer Estrada to Laguna and gave the government and the defense lawyers until Monday to submit their memoranda. Badoy then suspended the session.

When the court resumed session several minutes later, Badoy asked court employees to call back Mendoza. Badoy then issued the decision.

"The court has very seriously considered the matter on this perceived threats . . . Therefore the court maintains that both parties must file their respective positions by Monday," Badoy said.

"But if anything highly explosive takes place by the weekend before Monday, as to endanger the life of the former President or . . . of the camp being overrun, we give the general (Mendoza) sufficient discretion, authority and power to use that discretion for that particular contingency," the justice added.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said: "We are happy about that (Sandiganbayan decision). It gives the PNP much leeway in keeping the security of the former President."

After the oral arguments, Jose Flaminiano, one of the lawyers of Estrada, first asked that they be granted until Monday to file their comment.

But after the court issued the order, the defense team asked that it be given an hour's notice before Estrada was transferred. The requests were granted.

In an interview between the court sessions, Mendoza said that the "mob" at Edsa without any central guidance posed a danger.

Looting

He said that the crowd could commit acts of vandalism and looting and could endanger the establishments around the area.

"The order is (for the police to observe maximum) tolerance. It's alright if there is an assembly, even if a very big assembly, but the problem is if they march from the shrine to Camp Crame and then Malacañang," he said.

Because of possible attacks, the PNP declared a curfew at Camp Crame. No one would be allowed to visit the deposed President or to do business from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The security was also beefed up. About 500 contingents of policemen from Regions 3 and 4 were deployed to Manila yesterday.

Estrada lawyers Rene Saguisag, Estelito Mendoza, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, Flaminiano, Raymond Fortun and Cleofe Verzola met with Estrada in his detention cell to report the decision of the Sandiganbayan.

Emerging from the meeting, Saguisag said it was the "consensus of the lawyers and Estrada to object to the transfer and to ask the high court to put on hold the impending order of the Sandiganbayan for their client's transfer."

Saguisag said the lawyers would inform the Supreme Court that there is "no guarantee" that the situation would be defused once Estrada is moved to Laguna.

He warned that the "situation will worsen" should the PNP decide to transfer Estrada.

Saguisag said "this is not the way to resolve national issues," referring to what he called Edsa III. "As I said we are just producing a Banana Republic here."

Describing President Macapagal-Arroyo as a "lame duck President," Saguisag said there was no use negotiating with the administration, thus, they decided to go to the high court.

Case withdrawn

On another case, government lawyers scored a victory of sorts when the Sandiganbayan's 2nd division allowed the withdrawal of a graft case against Estrada.

The case was based on allegations that Estrada profited when the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System bought a total of 681.733 million shares of Belle Corp. at P3.10 and P3.20 per share.

The court said in its decision to allow the withdrawal of the case that the defense did not object to the prosecution's move to have the case withdrawn.

The court also said that its decision was based on "practical reasons." It said that if the case were allowed to prosper and the prosecution refused to present its witnesses, the case would be dismissed.

'Cabinet meeting'

Earlier in the day, rumors swept Camp Crame about an "impromptu Cabinet meeting" at the PAOCTF jail when former members of the Estrada Cabinet arrived at the same time to visit their former boss.

Those who came were former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, Press Secretary Ricardo "Dong" Puno and his predecessor Jerry Barican, Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara, Presidential Management Staff chief Lenny de Jesus, Energy Secretary Mario Tiaoqui, Public Works Secretary Gregorio Vigilar, Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio "Boy" Morales, Labor Secretary Benjamin Laguesma and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Tessie Aquino-Oreta also came to visit.

"It is a reunion of sorts," Morales told reporters. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Christian V. Esguerra, Mark Isaiah David*

Canlaon mayoral bet, 4 others killed in ambush

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Canlaon City Vice Mayor Jose Cardenas and four companions were ambushed and killed yesterday afternoon by about 40 armed men some five kilometers from this city.

Five other persons, including Cardenas' sister, were seriously wounded when the gunmen opened fire at Sitio Bucalan, Barangay Budlasan here, according to the Philippine National Police in Negros Oriental.

An initial police report said Cardenas, Lakas-NUCD candidate for mayor in the coming elections, was on his way home from a rally in Sitio Bucalan, a mountainous village, when his group was waylaid.

PO3 Bernabe Robio of the Negros Oriental PNP identified the other fatalities as Canlaon City Councilor Hospicio Condes Jr., spokesperson of the Lakas-NUCD in the city, and Calvin Neri, Ricardo Oka and Telesforo Fajardo.

Wounded were Jessica Cardenas, the vice mayor's sister and a councilor of Canlaon City, and Jimmy Clerego, Nick Malones and Ramil Salazar.

Robio said initial investigation indicated only about a dozen armed men staged the ambush and not 40 as claimed in radio reports here.

Cardenas, who during the regime of Ferdinand Marcos earned a reputation as a freedom fighter, was appointed mayor of Canlaon by President Corazon Aquino in 1986 and served until 1998. Unable to run for another term, he ran and won as vice mayor.

Canlaon City, 160 km north of Negros Oriental's capital of Dumaguete City, was tagged as an "area of concern" in the coming polls by the Commission on Elections after suspected communist New People's Army guerrillas were sighted in the area.

Cardenas was running against Julius Amador of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

'BIG STEP FORWARD'

Oslo talks start; negotiators upbeat

OSLO, Norway—Philippine government negotiators and communist rebels called the resumption of peace talks between them yesterday in this capital an important step toward ending their 32-year conflict.

No major breakthroughs were expected at the start of the talks at the picturesque Holmenkollen Park Hotel here, but both sides were optimistic about the future.

"We consider this a big step forward," said chief government negotiator Silvestre Bello III at the formal opening of the negotiations. "Our previous talks had not been easy, but we came to realize our resolve to serve our people."

The communist rebellion, one of the longest-running in the world, has killed and displaced thousands and impeded economic development in the Philippines.

Bello, a former Philippine justice secretary, said the two sides will try to set up a framework for continuing negotiations and begin work on the issues of social and economic reforms, two of the thorniest points in previous talks.

Rebel leaders also pledged to do their best to make progress as both sides gathered around a long table in the hotel's Nobel Room, smiling, laughing and shaking hands twice around before sitting down.

"At least the atmosphere seems excellent," Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Raymond Johansen said in welcoming the nearly 30 rebel representatives and 15 government negotiators to the Norwegian capital.

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the Marxist umbrella rebel group National Democratic Front, said his group was "determined to work hard for a just and lasting peace."

"We are committed to responding to the call of the Filipino people," he said. "The NDF wants these Oslo talks to be a big success."

The participants were expected to meet through Monday in the Norwegian capital, often called "The City of Peace" as the home of the Nobel Peace Prize and negotiations for many of the world's worst conflicts.

Both sides said the current unrest back home where supporters of former President Joseph Estrada are protesting his detention on a plunder charge did not cast a shadow over the opening of the peace talks.

"The arrest of Estrada is a clear indication of the observance of our government of the rule of law. We do not feel the arrest could in any way derail the peace process," Bello said.

On Friday, both sides mainly settled formal details of their meetings and formed working groups, with the main thrust of the talks set to begin Saturday, Jalandoni said.

As the meeting opened, however, the first hint of a disagreement emerged over the format for future talks.

Jalandoni proposed having Oslo as a permanent site for the talks, while Bello said the government wants the talks to be moved around, including to the Philippines, for the next round.

But the two sides also appeared ready to seek a compromise, with Jalandoni saying at a news conference that he could accept some working groups for subtopics meeting in the Philippines.

Both sides said they envision talks progressing in phases, aimed at a final agreement in 18 months. They agreed in previous talks on respect for human rights and international law but must now settle when and how that pact can be put into force.

Other touchy issues include democratic, political and constitutional reforms, and an outline for ending hostilities.

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Opposition senators dress down execs for 'illegal search'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AIRPORT and aviation officials yesterday got a two-hour severe dressing-down from opposition senators Vicente Sotto III, Juan Ponce Enrile and Rodolfo Biazon who angrily denounced the allegedly illegal search of the luggage of former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito and her son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, on Monday.

It soon became obvious why an "inquiry-in-aid of legislation" was called by the Senate committees on public services and constitutional amendments yesterday morning.

Instead of discussing the nitty-gritty of three aviation bills relating to recent plane crashes, public services committee chair Sotto went directly to the point by telling his 10 guests about his disappointment over what happened last Monday at a private hangar at the Manila international airport.

The incident occurred as Sotto, Ejercito and the younger Estrada were about to leave for General Santos City on board a chartered Falcon 911 jet of Subic Air.

No contest

PNP-ASG Chief Gen. Marcelo Ele Jr. and assistant director for human resources development Sr. Supt. Pedro Sanchez had difficulty trying to get their explanations heard by Sotto and Enrile, who kept firing one question after another.

Even Transportation Assistant Secretary Alan Tan was chided for the failure of his boss, Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, to attend the hearing.

Sotto warned darkly that Alvarez, whose excuse was that he had a prior commitment in Davao City, could explain when the Commission on Appointments begins deliberating on his confirmation.

Sotto said he and the two other senators wanted to know why the "unjustifiable inspection" and "unlawful interference" was made on his group by the PNP's Aviation Security Group.

"How can you honestly justify asking the passengers to go down, open their baggage, show you their underthings and valises?" Enrile demanded to know.

'Martial law'

Enrile, who banged the table once, said that they never searched private planes during martial law.

Ele labored to explain that the "preventive security" measures—subjecting the plane and the luggage to canine-sniffing—were done in accordance with the PNP-ASG's mandate to secure all private and commercial aircraft.

He said the Philippines has adopted since 1944 the International Civil Aviation Organization Annex 17, or the security standards and recommended practices to prevent hijacking and unlawful acts and interference to civil aviation for both commercial and general aviation. It is a United Nations protocol.

Ele later cited to the INQUIRER four Philippine aviation security laws as the basis for the "paneling" or security check on the aircraft.

Enrile asked if the United Nations convention overrode the protection granted by the Philippine Constitution to its citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures. He then read the pertinent constitutional provision to Ele and Sanchez.

Then came the threats. Enrile first warned there would be vengeance come budget deliberations time, hinting the PNP-ASG could be abolished.

Filing of charges

"I will put this in the record. After the elections, I will personally file charges against you in the Ombudsman . . . I'm telling you, you will not be able to get out of it once I file the cases against you," Enrile promised.

Sanchez started to protest: "How can we perform our mandate if we do not comply with . . ." but Enrile cut him off.

"It's only Congress which can enact a law. It's none of your business," Enrile said.

"You made a choice (to follow) whoever asked you. You have to take the consequences," said Enrile.

When Biazon arrived, he scolded the aviation security officials for "singling out" the Subic Air plane.

Belying authorities' claim that the inspections are done routinely on all planes, whether commercial or private, Biazon said he was a frequent flier but "nobody but nobody inspects my plane."

"Are you telling me I'm dispensable?" said Biazon, providing the only comic relief that morning.

Biazon then asked if the aircraft being used by the administration's People Power Coalition candidates were also searched.

When he got an unsure response, Biazon asked if the PNP-ASG considered PPC candidates Franklin Drilon, Manuel Villar and Joker Arroyo as "less of a VIP" than Loi.

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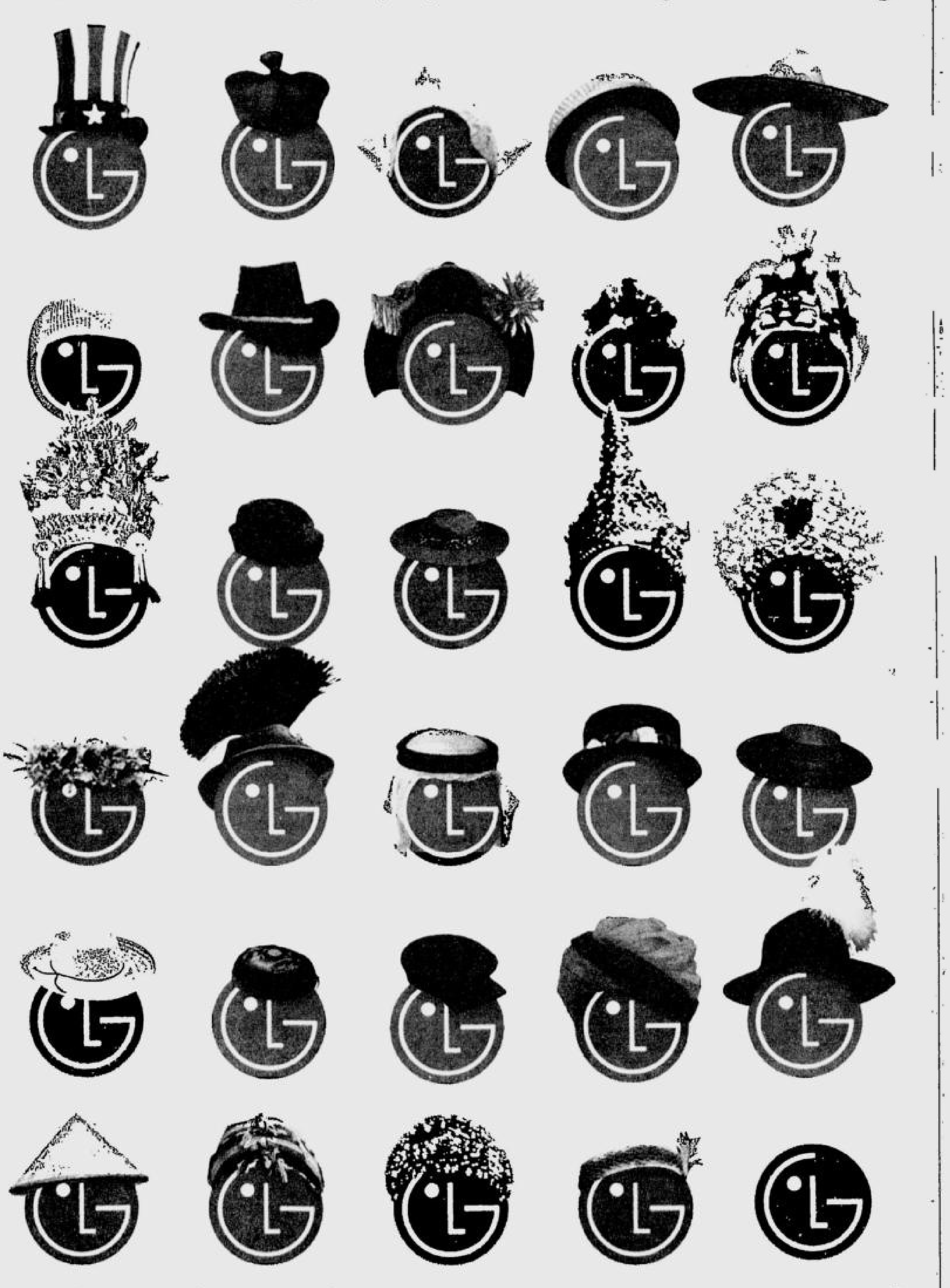

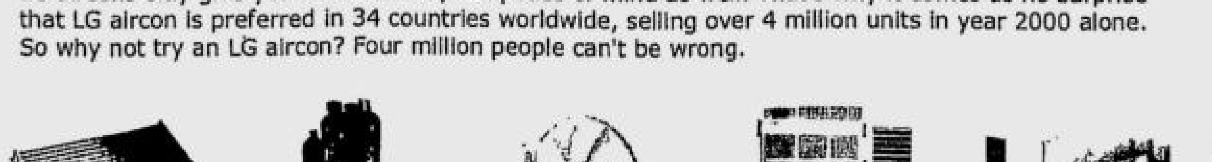

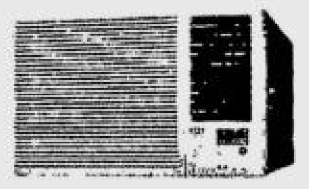

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Sandigan resumes hearings on graft raps vs Binay

By Volt Contreras

SUPPORTERS and detractors of Jejomar Binay held simultaneous demonstrations at the Sandiganbayan yesterday over the much-delayed seven-year-old graft cases against the former Makati City mayor who is again making a run for his old post.

A mere row of parked vehicles separated Binay's placard-bearing loyalists from the "anti" group made up of leftist organizations and a relatively new grouping of residents from Makati's elite "villages."

The convoy of the anti-Binay group—composed of about 50 members of the Bayan Muna party-list group, Sanlakas, the People Power for Justice Movement, Kompil II, the Makati Anti-Trapo Movement (Mantra) and the Citizens of Makati for Good Governance (COMGG)—arrived first and held forth at the court building's front at around 12 noon.

But they had to move to the side of the building when a larger, 150-strong, pro-Binay contingent arrived at 2 p.m.

The COMGG, launched last March 12, counts as its convenors such prominent Makati residents as Bea Zobel, Rossana Fores, Ching Montinola, Josie Bantug, Menchu Bautista, Mercy Tuason, Bambina Buenaventura, Olivia Romulo, Sandy Squillantini, Bingbing Santos and Mert Loinaz.

Binay did not show up at the courthouse yesterday when the Sandiganbayan's 5th division resumed hearings on the three criminal cases filed against him and other officials of Makati during his first term as mayor.

Binay and five others are facing two charges of graft and another charge of illegal use of public funds amounting to P120 million. The crimes were allegedly committed in 1987, but the respondents were sued by the Ombudsman only in September 1994.

The other accused are former Makati municipal treasurer Robert Chang, chief accountant Luz Yamane, municipal consultant Marissa Chan, cashier Asucena Diaz, and pre-audit division chief Mariano Yuson.

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MOVEMENT

PRO- and anti-Binay groups stage rallies in front of the Sandiganbayan which is hearing the seven-year-old graft cases against the former Makati mayor. JESS YUSON

In a motion filed for him by his lawyers, Binay yesterday moved for a postponement, the fourth such postponement since March 2000 when the anti-graft court first scheduled hearings on the three cases.

One of the reasons for the hearings being unable to proceed is because Binay's co-accused have yet to be arraigned. The court agreed to the postponement and scheduled the next hearing for July 7.

The anti-Binay group decried the postponement, saying Binay was resorting to delaying tactics.

In a press statement, COMGG said the gains of Edsa I and II were being threntened because of a "localized form of dictatorship and the mockery that is being made of the judicial system."

"If he (Binay' is not guilty, why does he refuse to appear? If he is innocent, why does he not want the case to proceed and why does he keep on maneuvering for postponement after postponement?" Bayan Muna general secretary Edwin Casilang said in a statement.

Evasion was a sign of guilt, he said.

Sanlakas said its participation in the protest was part of its crusade for clean and honest governance "not only in the national but also at the local level."

Mantra spokesperson Benjie Angeles said the so-called new politics was meaningless if it is not translated into the local level.

"Corruption in the local level must be wiped out and what better place to start than in the most progressive city in the country--Makati," he said.

Mantra urged the justice secretary to look into other charges against Binay, such as allegations of hidden or ill-gotten wealth and undeclared properties and assets.

Loinaz, a resident of Dasmariñas Village, said Binay has been using in his campaign the rich-versus-poor rhetoric associated with the camp of ousted president Joseph Estrada to counter his critics.

"But is democracy an elitist issue? This is a clamor for justice that has nothing to do with our being rich or poor," she said, noting that her group counts among its members both the well-heeled and underprivileged of Makati.

From the pro-Binay side, party mate and city council candidate Nestor Pacia wondered aloud why groups like the COMGG surfaced only during elections.

"Why are they drumming this up only now? Why not three months or a year ago?" he said, adding that the issue against Binay had been used before by his political rivals like Bobby Brillante and Toro Yabut.

Binay was mayor of Makati for 12 years from 1986 to 1998, when he was barred from running for another term. His wife, Elenita Binay, ran in his stead while he cooled his heels at the Metro Manila Development Authority as chair. He now appears to be reclaiming the mayorship that never really left the family. With another son running for Makati councilor, no Binay family member will be farther than a seat away from the prime local government post.

Gov't lawyers buck Jalosjos bid for check-up

By Cathy Yamsuan

CONVICTED child rapist Romeo Jalosjos may have a heart problem but government lawyers are not convinced that his condition is serious enough for him to obtain treatment outside his jail cell.

It is feared Jalosjos might use a trip to the Makati Medical Center, his hospital of choice, as an opportunity to escape.

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo has written the Supreme Court asking it to turn down Jalosjos' request for medical tests outside the New Bilibid Prisons.

Marcelo's five-page comment noted that none of the doctors at the NBP was willing to go on record that Jalosjos' condition warrants outside treatment.

Only Jalosjos' personal cardiologist, Dr. Carlo Santos-Ocampo, is "concerned about the possibility of a worsening heart condition" and suggested that the congressman be confined at the MMC "for three to five days."

"There is no evidence on record showing that the medical symptoms exhibited by (Jalosjos) are permanently incapacitating or life-threatening in nature," Marcelo said.

"The risk of escape during his proposed examination and possible confinement at the MMC, or in trips to and from said institution, cannot be absolutely discounted," he warned.

Jalosjos, who was then a neophyte solon from Zamboanga del Norte, was convicted for statutory rape in 1997 after the Makati Regional Trial Court found him guilty of having sexual relations 11-year-old.

He successfully ran for a second term from his jail cell and is now serving his sophomore term in Congress as a maximum security inmate.

Cardiologist Santos-Ocampo, who has suggested several medical tests for Jalosjos, is concerned that his patient's condition might worsen so that confinement in a state-of-the-art hospital might be needed.

But NBP officials apparently want to avoid a possible controversy stemming if Jalosjos is allowed to seek outside treatment and tossed the issue to the Department of Justice which in turn referred the matter to the high tribunal. The Supreme Court then sought the Solicitor General's opinion.

Former SSS, GSIS heads rap 'cheap shot'

THE FORMER president of the Government Service Insurance System yesterday denounced as "a cheap shot" attempts by the lawyers of deposed President Joseph Estrada to blame the previous managers of the GSIS and the Social Security System for the financial mess besetting the two pension institutions.

Cesar N. Sarino, former local government secretary and GSIS president, said public attention on the plunder of GSIS funds is now being diverted by turning the table and blaming those who previously managed these GFIs.

Estrada's lawyers, Jesus Crispin Remulla and Raymond Fortun, had accused the former heads of the GSIS and the SSS of financial anomalies under the administration of former President Fidel Ramos.

Sarino and Renato Valencia, former administrator and chief executive officer of the SSS, denied the allegations in separate press statements.

Valencia said Estrada and his lawyers "should do well to check carefully the facts on the ground before making wild and ludicrous claims . . . unless the objective is only to becloud the current issues and take some heat off Mr. Estrada" in the plunder cases and other serious charges he is facing.

Sarino said that under his watch, the GSIS experienced a financial and organizational renaissance, a watershed, which the GSIS could now use as institutional standard in evaluating future performance, particularly in terms of responding to the needs of its 1.5 million members.

During the period 1992-1997, specifically, the GSIS not only expanded but also increased member's benefits annually, dramatically capped by the passage of the GSIS Act of 1996 which increased members' retirement benefits from a minimum of P2,500 to initially P9,000 a month.

The expansion and increase in benefits were done while chalking up milestone achievements in its finances during the period 1992-1997, he said.

Sarino said that under him, gross revenues increased from P14.3 billion to P31.1 billion, net profit from P7 billion to P18.5 billion, assets jumped from P50.8 billion to P120 billion, and actuarial reserves from P43.8 billion to P105.9 billion.

On the loan made to Mr. Jose Marcel Panlilio, "the ERAP wordspinners did a sloppy research," Sarino said. He said that the uncollected Panlilio account was a behest loan made during the time of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

On the GSIS investments in Belle Resources in 1993, Sarino confirmed that the GSIS invested some funds with Belle Resources.

"But we bought the shares at an average price of P3.84 per share and unloaded these shortly thereafter at an average price of P4.54 per share, resulting in actual net gains of P145.8 million," he said. "What a difference this makes between the trading gains made in 1993 and the losses incurred in the transaction made last year."

Valencia, on the other hand, said that during his term, the SSS had no dealings, either in loans or investments, with Panlilio, RJ Jacinto or former Armed Forces chief Gen. Lisandro Abadia.

He said it was during Carlos Arellano's term during the Estrada administration that the SSS invested in Urban Bank and Belle Resources. He added that no behest loans or investments were made by the SSS during his eight-year term as SSS administrator.

On the SSS loan to the Centennial Expo project, Valencia said he had already fully and publicly explained the transaction. He said the Saguisag commission, which investigated the Centennial Expo found no irregularity and filed no charges against the SSS or any of its officials.

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Small papers say TV, radio hog poll ads

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CONTRARY to expectations, many provincial newspapers are not benefiting from the lifting of the ban on political advertisements.

Television and radio stations are, publishers and editors from Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao said in separate interviews Wednesday.

Most of the ads of candidates to the May 14 elections are aired over the electronic media, according to Jose Pavia, publisher of the weekly Mabuhay in Bulacan.

More than 100 provincial publishers, members of the Philippine Press Institute, are feeling the disheartening trend, Pavia, PPI acting executive director, said.

"Hardly do ads come in," confirmed Guillermo Hagad, associate editor of the Mindanao Cross which is published twice a week by the Oblate Fathers and circulated in Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao.

"I've gotten none at all even from local candidates," said Ody Fabian, publisher-editor of The Voice. The weekly, considered the oldest in Central Luzon, used to publish many political ads in the years before the Supreme Court upheld the prohibition in 1992, he said.

Fabian thought his paper's problem was unique until his fellow publishers, who are gathered in Manila this week for the PPI's Fifth Press Forum, said they too had been getting very few campaign ads.

The ad ban was repealed on Feb. 12 when President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law Republic Act 9006 or the Fair Election Act.

Eileen Mangubat, publisher of the Cebu Daily News, lamented that provincial newspapers were not getting a fair share of the ads.

Mangubat recalled that lobbyists for the Fair Election Act had often cited community papers as being badly in need of legitimate revenue.

Fabian said the lifting of the ad ban made no difference at all.

"It did not improve the financial position of the provincial press. It only raised expectations," he said.

Pavia and Mangubat believed that television and radio commanded a huge steady audience during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada and the People Power II movement that deposed him.

After these historic events, politicians prefer the electronic media, they said.

Pavia noted that 30-second ads could hardly reveal much about a candidate's platform.

The campaign ads that even the leading television networks are airing are not substantive, Mangubat said.

"The entire industry expected a flood of political ads. But this did not come, contrary to expectations," she said.

Even radio stations, she said, were disappointed by the low ad turnout.

To Hagad and Fabian, it's all a question of economics.

Even businessman Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., a known political kingmaker, has withheld his money from the Nationalist People's Coalition, the party he supports, Hagad said, citing local reports.

Fabian agreed there seemed to be little money in this year's elections.

Candidates, he said, were "holding back their money, preferring to use it later for mobilization or to buy votes."

SSS explains fund releases for housing loans

THE SOCIAL Security System has been releasing funds for housing loans to members through private banks and government home-financing agencies and "never directly to private developers," a senior official said yesterday.

In a press statement, SSS Assistant Vice President for Loans Program Management Ma. Luz Generoso said the banks and the home-financing agencies such as the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. and the Home Development Fund, or Pag-Ibig, deal with accredited private developers and serve as originating institutions.

"Members can choose from any accredited developers," Generoso said. "It is the home-buyer and not the developer who owes the home-financing institution, which in turn borrowed from the SSS."

Generoso was reacting to press reports that the institution had released funds to C&P, the flagship real estate company owned by Manuel Villar, former speaker of the House of Representatives, who is running for a seat in the Senate.

SSS, which has been a major source of funds for the government's housing program, has disbursed nearly P50 billion to home-financing agencies and private banks in the past several years.

Generoso said the loan obligations of these home-financing agencies to SSS have been guaranteed by the national government.

"Private banks seek guarantee coverage from the Home Guarantee Corporation," she said.

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Parody of people power

EDITORIAL

THE RABBLE that has assembled at Edsa to protest against the arrest of deposed President Joseph Estrada has been given various labels. Among them are "Edsa III" and "poor power." But calling the demonstrations Edsa III is a parody and mockery of Edsa.

The historical context of Edsa is that it is the court of last resort for the sovereign people to throw off the yoke of abusive and corrupt leaders after all institutional means to end the abuses have failed. That has been the meaning embedded in Edsa by People Power I, which toppled Ferdinand Marcos, and People Power II, which deposed Estrada.

The Filipino people endured 14 years of the Marcos dictatorship, its abuses and its looting of the nation's wealth, before People Power took shape in February 1986. They endured two and a half years of Estrada's abuses and plunder before they moved to end his greedy, corrupt and incompetent regime.

Those two movements were fueled by profound causes: grievances arising from abuse of power and grand larceny. In contrast, the mass demonstration at Edsa today was sparked by the arrest of Estrada on charges of economic plunder.

There's no discounting the fact that Estrada still retains a large constituency among the poor. But it's a mockery of the meaning of Edsa to call that gathering Edsa III. The current demonstrations trivialize Edsa. They are like the counterfeit name "Jose Velarde" which Estrada signed on his laundered bank accounts. The only association the demonstrations can have with Edsa is that it is an alias for Edsa and should therefore be qualified with the abbreviation "a.k.a." in the same manner that the Sandiganbayan's arrest warrants identified Estrada as "a.k.a. Asiong Salonga," or "Jose Velarde."

What we see in the Edsa protest rally today is a reincarnation of the Asiong Salonga culture impersonated by Estrada in his film of the same title. When the crowds occupied the Edsa Shrine, they proceeded to deface it and dump garbage there. Whom were they mad at? The Virgin?

The mob at Edsa doesn't have leaders to articulate what they really want. They are as chaotic as the Estrada administration. Three demands seem to have emerged, separately from that crowd: (1) free Estrada from jail; (2) put him under house arrest (this comes from his lawyers); and (3) put him back as president (Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago is the most vociferous in making this demand).

Those who demand his release from jail collide against the judicial system and process which have inexorably sent him to detention while waiting for trial on the plunder charges. No one in his right mind can say that Estrada has been denied due process.

The demand for house arrest means that the law should not be applied equally to the powerful and the poor. It is asking for a privilege that is not enjoyed by other citizens. When the poor echo the petition of the defense lawyers to keep Estrada under house arrest, they are in fact demanding a double standard: one for Estrada and a stricter rule for the poor and the rest of us. The poor are thus arguing against their own interest.

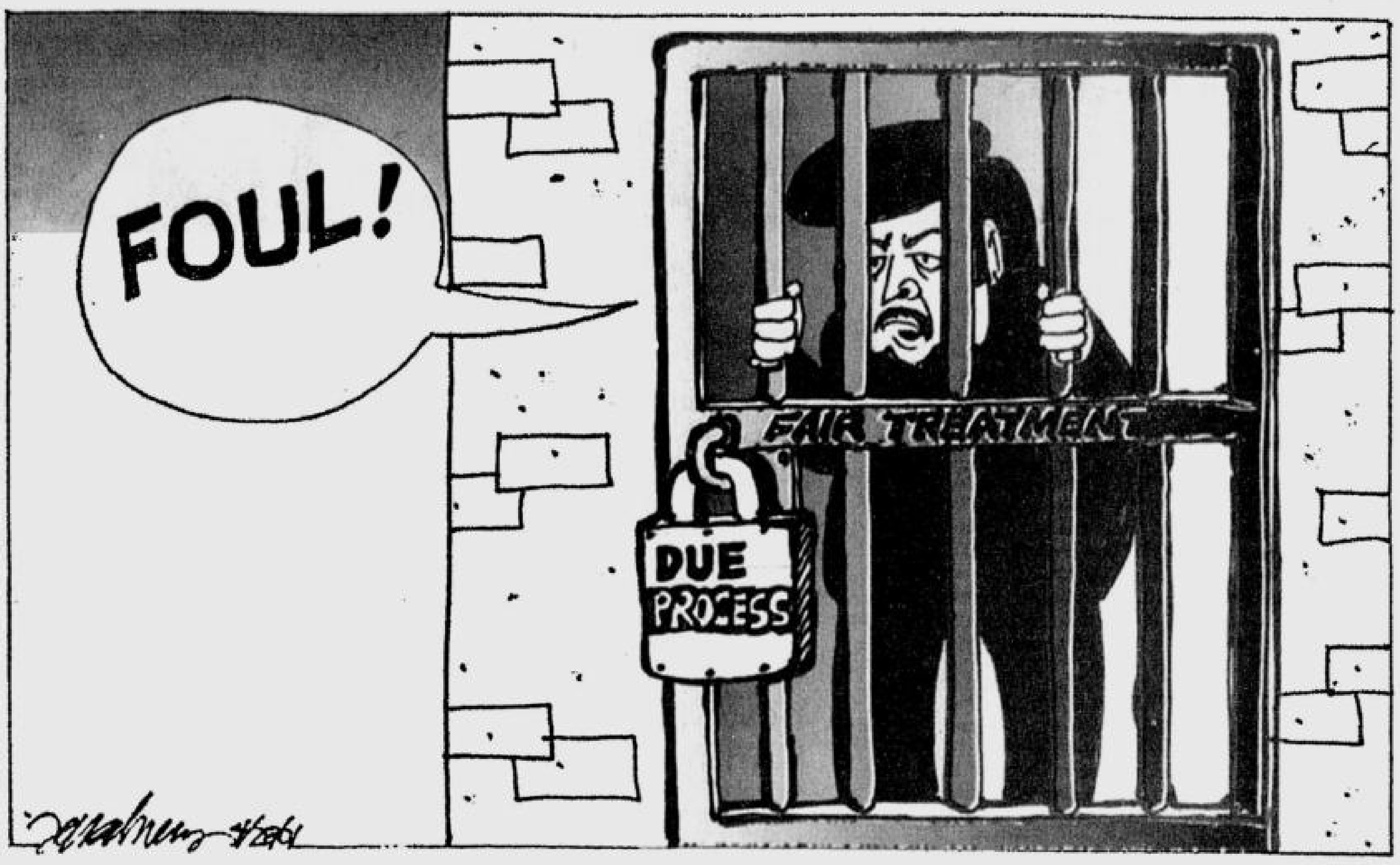
The third demand—reinstating Estrada as president—calls not only for his restoration. It is a call for the reinstatement of massive corruption and incompetence in government.

Calling the demonstration the "revenge of the poor" corrupts political vocabulary. On whom are the poor wreaking vengeance? Their revenge would be better directed at their idol who had betrayed them and who, while he was in power, failed to improve their lot. In corruption, the loot extracted from the national wealth goes to the pocket of the corrupt official, making the poor poorer.

The legitimacy of the Macapagal administration has been recognized by the Supreme Court, the key institutions of the state and by the diplomatic corps. The demand for the restoration of Estrada flies in the face of this wall of legitimacy.

The poor are being cynically used to justify these absurd and unrealistic demands. Their numbers are being used to give muscle to the demand that Estrada be given privileges contradicting the principle of equal protection of the law.

Incidentally, the demonstrators and their politician friends who are taking advantage of them have called for "fair" treatment from media covering their rallies. The cause for the scarcity of the media in these rallies is that hooligans masquerading as protesters are hostile to the media. The mobs were roughing up journalists and stoning their vehicles. Edsa today is not the safest place for practicing members of the media to be.



The case of the moral lepers

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

BEFORE THE ROARING Twenties, there was an interesting street in Sampaloc, Manila, aptly called Gardenia. Whoever gave it that name must have been an inspired hedonist (or poet) for the street was a veritable garden of pleasure. It was known in the city and beyond as the place where men could satisfy the urgings of the flesh with women delicately called "of ill repute." It was, in legal terms, a *de facto* red light district.

What I report here is mere hearsay for I had not yet been born then. From what I learned later, the street conducted a brisk business, with the beautiful *señoritas* (many still spoke Spanish at the time), attracting a diverse patronage. This included cigar-chomping politicos and American soldiers on pass, nervous *provincianos* looking for thrills in the big city, and the native hard-nosed Lotharios ready to splurge their day's earnings on a surreptitious good time.

One might imagine that some rogue cops from Manila's Finest provided (for a deserved honorarium) adequate official protection for the busy street. A place like that could not have survived long unless some of the city officials had not looked the other way while the operators raked in the profits and their wares lured their willing clients. Some higher ups in City Hall may have been among those on the take, and at a higher rate, of course.

(Why are everybody's customers now called "clients" or "clientele"? These words were originally applied exclusively to lawyers but have now been appropriated by storeowners, real estate agents, cemetery plot sellers, beauticians, couturiers, and what-have-you who want to sound like attorneys. Only doctors have retained their exclusive use of the word "patient.")

But not the mayor of Manila, the Honorable Justo Lukban. He was not only honorable but also a dyed-in-the-wool moralist who probably also frowned on make-up. Naturally, he was not happy with the shenanigans going on in that pit of iniquity. It was a blight on his beloved city that not only debased the morals of the residents but also endangered their health. This was a serious problem that cried to be solved.

Convinced of the righteousness of his cause, the good mayor moved swiftly and decisively. His action was to excite national interest and cause concern among those who did not share his laudable motives. The case of Villavicencio v. Lukban, 39 Phil. 778, would eventually be perpetuated in Philippine jurisprudence as a lesson on government authority versus individual rights. It would alarm the libertarians and titillate many a vicarious *voyeur*.

In the dead of night of Oct. 25, 1918, Mayor Lukban's policemen, by pre-arrangement with the Bureau of Labor and the Philippine Constabulary, swooped down on Gardenia and rounded up the 170 women who had days before been confined to their houses. They were forcibly hustled into waiting cars and then herded into two steamers without being informed of their destination. Some may have supposed they were being taken to the police station, but why were they going by boat? Actually, they were bound for the remote province of Davao, where they had been contracted to work as plantation laborers.

There are no exact data of what happened to every one of them after they were delivered to the governor of Davao. Some probably discovered religion and vowed to lead a chaste life while others may have simply regarded the province as another hunting ground and resumed their occupation there. A few may even have married, without or after confessing their background to their spouses, and, let us hope, lived happily ever after. Others managed to return to Manila on their own, and the rest were never heard from again despite diligent search.

The incident created quite a stir, particularly from the women's clientele suddenly deprived of their periodic diversion. Soon, as might be expected, Mayor Lukban and his co-conspirators were facing *habeas corpus* proceedings for their arbitrary violation of the women's human rights. The petition sought to compel the respondents to return the victims to Manila as the residence of their voluntary choice. For his part, Lukban said he was moved only by the best interests of the residents of Manila whom he wanted to protect from the vice at Gardenia.

The petitioners were represented by Alfonso Mendoza, who later became the lone opposition member of the National Assembly in 1935. Defending the respondents was City Fiscal Anacleto Diaz, who would in time be appointed to the Court of Appeals.

On March 25, 1919, the Supreme Court granted the petition in a decision written by Justice George Malcolm and concurred in by five justices, two only in the result. While commending the mayor's motives, the lengthy *ponencia* held that he had not acted by authority of any law in forcibly taking the women to their unwanted exile. There was no statute, order or regulation even hinting at such authority. No law at all! On the other hand, the Revised Penal Code punishes any public official who, without authority, forces any person to change his residence.

It was in this landmark case that the Supreme Court emphasized the principle that ours is "a government of laws and not of men." The tribunal also stressed the importance of the liberty of abode to which all persons are entitled, including the deportees who, "despite their being in a sense lepers of society not chattel but Philippine citizens protected by the same constitutional guarantees as are other citizens."

For his failure to immediately comply with the order of the Court to bring back the deported women to Manila, Mayor Lukban was fined P100, not an insignificant amount at that time. One of two dissenting justices who argued that the liberty of abode was not absolute sternly said that the fine should be increased to P500. Gardenia was later renamed Gen. Licerio Geronimo, after a revolutionary hero, and became relatively virtuous without its former name and fascination.

More than a cockfight?

COMMENTARY

Andrea Soco
Institute on Church and Social Issues

WHO can forget the outrage that followed after 11 senators refused to open the second envelope during President Estrada's impeachment trial? Many were stunned, while some shared the grief of Senators Franklin Drilon, Renato Cayetano and Loren Legarda. Emotions ran high and people took to the streets to protest not only the obstruction of justice but also corruption and deteriorating moral values. From close to midnight till late in the morning, people trooped to Edsa, crossing class lines, and calling for a change in governance. For a majority of the Filipinos, this change was expected to come in the form of more decent and humane living conditions.

Booting out Joseph Estrada was easy. Changing the system or trying to make it more partial toward the poor and marginalized is not. The 1987 elections, which came after the first Edsa Revolution, did not really change the situation in the country. Wealthy landowners claimed many of the seats in Congress and joined hands to block the passage of agrarian reform laws. These landowners were then able to retain vast tracts of land while the small farmers and farmworkers continued to live in poverty, tilling land that was not theirs.

Change is indeed a difficult task. Despite ending a 20-year dictatorship, Edsa I did not pave the way for genuine changes in the social structure. This experience tells us that putting the right people in the right positions counts. As Edsa II has witnessed, the phrase "*para sa mahirap*" means nothing if it is not translated into action. Now that the elections are drawing near, change can find a voice.

The elections can be a potent instrument for change, if people would see them as such. But many of the poor, who comprise a huge percentage of the voting public, have already lost faith in the elections.

Fr. John Carroll, S.J. feels that ordinary people see the election as a cockfight. They watch it with interest, keep out of the way lest they get hurt, and try to make some money by betting on the right cock. But it is not something that can change their lives.

"The candidates give us (the urban poor) attention only during elections. Afterwards, we are forgotten," observes Aling Zeny, a Montalban relocatee. This is true. Many candidates capitalize on the need for change and shower the poor with promises of improving their living conditions to get their vote. Politicians who have never visited poor communities suddenly show up at their doorsteps, shaking hands with residents, carrying babies and pretending to be one with the poor. But after the election season, the community is left to itself.

Accepting bribes, says Aling Zeny, has become the side effect. "In the hopes of gaining connections, some people allow politicians to buy their votes."

Now that Edsa II has taken place, have attitudes toward elections changed? Edsa itself is a reminder that if Filipinos will once again become complacent, another revolution will not be long in coming.

For their part, the media have been constantly promoting awareness, both over the radio and on television, and various organizations have embarked on voter's education campaigns. But how much of the attitudes of ordinary Filipinos changed?

In a forum titled, "May Nagbago Ba? Pananaw ng mga Karaniwang Tao sa Eleksyon at Pulitika," held last April 19 and organized by the Institute on Church and Social Issues, the Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs, and the Ateneo Research Network for Development, ordinary citizens were invited to share their views on the coming elections. The speakers, who came from the urban and rural poor sectors, noted that Edsa II definitely proved to be an eye-opener. Aling Zeny herself feels that after Edsa II, more people have become aware of what the elections can do. "The urban poor saw that their beloved president did something detrimental to the country. They are now realizing that they should vote for someone who can truly do something."

Aling Rosie, a *pancit habhab* vendor from Pulilio, Quezon, agrees: "I think many ordinary people are now more cautious and will try to analyze a candidate's character before choosing to vote for him/her."

Aling Rosie and Aling Zeny's words give us hope that things may change. But their ideas do not necessarily represent those of millions of other Filipinos, organized and unorganized, who will also cast their votes. As one forum reactor discovered through a television talk show, support for candidates depends on two things: popularity and money. The show's audience, regardless of membership in pro-Erap or anti-Erap factions, expressed support for candidates whom they knew and who would give them money. Alas, selling votes still seems to be widely accepted.

Among the ranks of the middle and upper classes, many will still be voting according to what candidates can do for them or their community. They will still vote for people they know or with whom they are affiliated no matter how remotely. They will still consider a candidate's personality instead of his/her platform, a candidate's charm instead of his/her credibility and ability to lead.

Change is indeed a gargantuan task. It is even more difficult in a familistic society such as ours, where people have grown accustomed to working only for their families' benefit and not for the good of the country. But change can come about if on May 14, voters will choose candidates who will serve the country and not merely their families. This serves as a challenge to the organized poor and civil society groups to continue their work of educating and creating more agents of social change.

'Pera ng Masa'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A PROFESSOR in Singapore, interviewed over CNN about the arrest of former President Estrada and the mass demonstrations being staged by his supporters here, opined that the arrest sends a "strong signal" to the international community that the rule of law is prevailing in the current administration and that no one is above the law in the Philippines. The Singaporean also stressed that the Philippines could use some healing, but this means that justice must be served. What came across from that interview is the positive view being taken by the international community regarding the Estrada arrest. For, like the nation, the world community knows about the sins of Estrada, and unlike some of our countrymen who are blind to them, or like to play blind, the world sees Erap's arrest as retributive justice.

* * *

Sadly, some countrymen of ours do not see it that way, or choose not to, including a few smart legal minds. But aside from those misguided legal minds, the protest movement at the Edsa Shrine consists of the *masa* who are trucked in by politicians supporting the disgraced leader. Reports indicate that among them are former Makati Mayor Jojo Binay, former Cavite Gov. Johnny Remulla and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who brought crowds all the way from Cagayan.

Unlike Edsa I and II, however, what they're passing off as Edsa III is homogenous in character; mostly elements from the low-income groups. What comes across is the *hakot* nature of the crowds: they eat the same pack meals and carry the same well-designed placards. This is in sharp contrast to the mixed bag of people from all walks of life who trooped to Edsa I and II. What is certain is that people with oodles of money are funding the current demonstrations. "Pera ng Masa," as Joker Arroyo put it.

* * *

What must be explained to the *masa* at Edsa is that Estrada has been accused of plunder, for which he must now answer in court; that his arrest is part of the judicial process and not political persecution. Explaining this is difficult in view of the prevailing emotionalism at Edsa, but it has to be done.

What is sad for those of us who were veterans of the two Edsas is that Our Lady's Shrine, which is so dear to us, is being desecrated, as individuals with a litany of sins against the people are blindly being defended and extolled by the very people they wronged.

* * *

Yesterday former Senate President Jovito Salonga, during whose term the Anti-Plunder Act (RA No. 7080) was passed, cited here interesting historical highlights of this law that's now the center of attention. He noted that the Senate unanimously passed the law, and one of its signatories was Sen. Joseph Estrada.

Salonga also pointed out two that Section 2 provides that any public officer who, by himself or in connivance with his family, relatives, associates, etc., acquires ill-gotten wealth through a combination or series of overt or criminal acts, amounting to P75 million, shall be punished by life imprisonment. The amount was later reduced to P50 million when the Death Penalty Law was passed, and the punishment was upgraded to life imprisonment to death. Salonga stressed, however, that while a public officer can commit plunder all by himself without conniving or conspiring with anyone, a single act of malversation of a big amount, say, P100 million, will not constitute plunder. There must be a combination or series of overt or criminal acts.

The implication of a number of individuals in Estrada's plunder case, such as his lawyer and his accountant, may be attributed to the fact that in the state's view, a series of overt or criminal acts existed.

* * *

Salonga also stressed that Section 4 of the Anti-Plunder Act provides that for purposes of establishing the crime of plunder it shall not be necessary to prove each and every criminal act of the accused. It is sufficient to establish beyond reasonable doubt a pattern of overt or criminal acts indicative of the overall scheme or conspiracy to amass ill-gotten wealth. For instance, he said, an information for plunder could have seven criminal acts: malversation of public funds, bribery, extortion, falsification of public documents, and three violations of the Anti-Graft Law, e.g., entering into three separate transactions on behalf of the government that are grossly disadvantageous to it. Salonga stressed that the first five violations, including a grossly disadvantageous contract, should be proved beyond reasonable doubt, while the other two transactions need not be proved, as long as the overall scheme is proved beyond reasonable doubt. The rationale here is obviously to limit the time consumed by the court in case there is a long string of crimes.

* * *

In Bacolod last weekend, my husband and I were given a tour of the new port, which is now in full operation. Over the years that we've been going to Bacolod, we could see the port rising from reclaimed land. On this latest trip, we were happy to see that the domestic port is humming with activity, with different shipping companies operating there, such as WG&A, Lorenzo Shipping and Sea Angels. The latter is the inter-island ferry between Bacolod and Iloilo City, and we saw how busy the traffic was between these two cities, with trips every hour on the hour. Negrenses can now have lunch and shop in Iloilo and return by sundown.

The international port at the northern end of the reclamation is finished, and a Canadian group is set to inaugurate a panel-lock type of warehouse, with the Canadian ambassador attending. Philphos, the fertilizer firm, has a huge warehouse there, too. It was pointed out to us that before, the fertilizer bound for Negros, which uses 70 percent of Western Visayas' fertilizer requirements in its sugar haciendas, would be shipped via the Iloilo port. Today the boats bring them first to Bacolod before going to Iloilo, thus cutting production costs for the Negrenses.

* * *

All these are part of the vision of one man, entrepreneur Simplicio "Sammy" Palanca, 71, a Negrense of Chinese descent who pushed the idea of a first-class port for Bacolod against all odds and despite so much political opposition and obstacles thrown its way over the last 31 years, including sequestration which was lifted in 1995. Sammy got five private groups to form the Bacolod Reclamation Development Corp. and invest in the port, without the participation of the government. Now, with all the benefits accruing to Negrenses, including jobs at the port, they have come to realize how right Palanca was in his vision. Even the government has awakened to its potential, with the Land Bank recently extending Bredco a 15-year, P350-million loan at 13 percent interest, with the reclaimed land as collateral, to finish the international port.

Faces of the poor

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON A RECENT trip to Cebu, I spent a few hours one evening in the backyard of the home of Baby Beduya in Sitio Sta. Maria, Pusok, Lapu-lapu City.

Sta. Maria is the largest sitio in Pusok, a largely urban poor barangay whose resident population has been augmented by hundreds of boarders, mostly young women, working in the Mactan Export Processing Zone. Baby is the president of the MEPZ Pusok Boundary Brotherhood Association (MPBBA), a gathering of neighborhood organizations that work for the betterment of their communities.

The first time I visited Baby's place, our guide had gone ahead and we were told to just ask where her house was. As we wound our way through the rough, uneven ground, narrow alleys and lanes, my Cebuana friends asked almost every person we met if he or she knew where Baby lived. Everyone who was asked did not only know who Baby was, they also helpfully and eagerly pointed us in the right direction. That was how I knew for sure that Baby was a genuine community leader, and that she was not only accepted and respected, but liked as well.

It's easy to see how Baby can so easily win her neighbors' friendship and support. The first time I met her, she greeted me warmly and welcomed me to her home like we were old friends. During my last visit for the MPBBA meeting, she hovered solicitously, offering ice cold water and then a fan to ward off the muggy evening heat.

Baby's leadership has attracted many supporters as well as potential patrons. She is often tapped by candidates wishing to access her network. We at Abanse! Pinay had been introduced to her by Pepe and Tommy of the Cebu Labor Education, Advocacy and Research Center who had worked with her on a community partnership for health program.

* * *

AND yet Baby and her family remain perhaps only marginally more comfortable than their neighbors. Her husband Lido, for one, recently retired as a member of the airport police force but has been waiting for months for his retirement pay.

With obvious disappointment, Baby recounted how Lido had been forced to travel to Manila and spend their savings for a few days' stay to follow up his retirement pay. And yet, she said, Camp Crame authorities pointed him to the budget department, even if it was the PNP's duty to make sure retiring members of the force got what they deserved.

"You know, I could make big money if I would accept all the offers that politicians make," declared Baby. But her commitment to the ideals of community organizing, and her strong involvement with both Church and people's organizations keep her from "selling out" her community's interests.

The remarkable thing is that Baby is not alone. All around the country, urban poor leaders like her are keeping their neighborhood associations alive, rallying families to work and demand for better services, and even mediating disputes among neighbors. Though themselves barely keeping their heads above hunger and desperation, they take time and expend energy to look after the welfare of others.

* * *

WHY am I writing about Baby and other community leaders like her? Partly to acknowledge her support for Abanse! Pinay and shed light on her good work in Sitio Sta. Maria. But also partly to remind myself that the faces of the poor in this country are not only that of the hooligans and rowdies, or the blind Erap fanatics gathered at the Edsa Shrine. So many—and I would like to believe the vast majority—of the poor in this country are women and men like Baby. In fact, I think the poor, who value their dignity and honor above all, would be the first to condemn the shameful behavior of the Edsa throng, who desecrated a church declared by the Vatican as "hallowed ground" (not "hollow" ground, as I erroneously wrote the other day), and used violence and intimidation against everyone they thought against them, including members of the media.

In the face of the taunting crowds at the shrine, the feeble response of the educated classes has been a texting brigade heaping insults and disdain on the lumpen pro-Erap masses. But let's not fall for the pro-Erap line that this is shaping up into a class war. The cause of truth, justice and democracy has many champions, and the most heroic of them are poor women and men like Baby.

* * *

THIS columnist has had many issues and differences with the Catholic hierarchy, Jaime Cardinal Sin foremost among them. But in this instance, I wholeheartedly support his call.

In a letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Manila, the cardinal has asked all Catholics to wear blue tomorrow, to show our sorrow at the way the Edsa Shrine, symbol of our proudest moments as Filipinos and as Christians, has been desecrated. He has a point when he says the shrine stands on private property and what the ralliers are doing is deeply offensive. As a friend told me: "When you want to enter a house, don't you ask the owner's permission first? And once there, don't you try to avoid offending your host?"

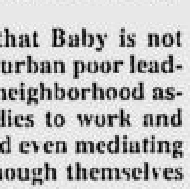
In another statement, pagbabago@pilipinas, a group of concerned young professionals, say that they "condemn politicians participating in this event for the benefit of their attempt at elective office this May. To further their personal electoral ambitions, they are conspiring with the unenlightened crowd to obstruct justice. Our electorate should punish these politicians in the coming polls for fueling an obvious attempt to thwart the very laws for which these politicians want to be elected."

Indeed, the gathering at the shrine is turning out to be less a protest than an extended (and foul, in all meanings of the word) *miting de avance*.

Decadence and kosher food

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



I DON'T know about you guys, but I have just been called "wholesome" by Adrian C, which is enough to make me give up carbohydrates for good. Well, maybe not the fermented potatoes and maybe I can cheat on the rice every so often, but wholesome, yikes. It sounds like I came from Iowa or something.

Adrian says I used to look decadent, a state of affairs which is rather difficult to maintain with the 20 pounds that had the effrontery of settling on my hips, not to mention the disappearance of my cheekbones. (I will be polite and not mention the rest of the calamity). While I was mulling this unfortunate turn of events and debating whether I should choose blue cheese dressing or vinaigrette for my salad, I got this invitation for a gastronomic festival of Israeli food from Mandarin's affable Charisse Chuidian. Since it was still a couple of days away, I decided on the blue cheese, naturally. I mean olive oil's fine, virgin or otherwise, and Balsamic vinegar is no doubt healthier, but I have to confess they lack a certain junkiness; they impart this terrible feeling of virtue, that I'm sure would delight my doctor.

When the day of the festival, Monday, dawned, I was very good and had Muesli for breakfast. (I'm generally well behaved at breakfast; it's the rest of the day that's the problem.) It was 97 degrees in the shade so I was also kind of glad to be at the Mandarin, enjoying the air-conditioning rather than making the Lopezes richer at home.

Hagit Ben Yaakov (she's a young girl and already a second secretary at the Embassy of Israel and no doubt very competent) proceeded to explain that the food wasn't going to be quite kosher. Strictly speaking, meat and fowl have to be slaughtered by rabbis and secondly you do not mix the two in a meal. Fish must have scales and gills, otherwise Jews are not allowed to eat it, following God's orders in Leviticus.

While Israeli music played, Maurice A, a Levantine, arrived announcing the shade of his hair is called sunstroke due to exposure at Saud beach during Holy Week. He also proclaimed his loyalty to Falafel, a deep-fried mixture of minced chickpeas, broadbeans, diced onions, lemon juice, crushed wheat flour and spices that you can eat with yogurt or Tahini. When I saw Micky Fenix, I knew a serious eating adventure was underway.

Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben-Abba, whose previous posting was in Beijing (she speaks Mandarin among other languages), explained that since Israel is a nation of immigrants, their food is a combination of various cuisines that have their roots in the Middle East, North Africa, the Mediterranean basin and Central and Eastern Europe. She herself is of Italian ancestry. Not being a kitchen person, she turned over the discussion to visiting chef Miki Nir, who jokingly declared that all the great painters and chefs have been men. That may be so, I countered, but with sperm banks, men are being rendered obsolete except for their fun potential.

Joking aside, the chef and his assistants had prepared quite a spread which one could call street food, he said, but is also eaten in most Israeli homes. There were at least 18 items in the salad bar that included Hummus, Tahini and Falafel but there were a few other pleasant surprises, like cauliflower fried with an emulsified sauce of butter and lemon that was simply lovely. The Mechamar is considered a pie, but it resembles the Spanish torta de patata, except that it has peas and carrots aside from the eggs and potatoes.

I loved the meatballs with chickpeas, while Maurice enthused about Megadarra, which is rice with lentils, no doubt a legacy of the Sephardics who came from Spain. The ambassador, who is slim as a reed (you get to notice stuff like that when you're not), was delighted with the chicken liver terrine which I thought had a sweet aftertaste not from sugar but from the minced onions, according to Chef Nir.

Israeli cuisine has a lot of tomatoes, eggplants and peppers and makes use of cucumbers and dill not to mention avocados with citrus vinaigrette. But then the Israelis did make the desert bloom, remember? By the time I had finished a portion of lamb shoulder—nice and tender with gravy, of course—and Matboucha which are tomatoes stuffed with hot peppers, I was thinking maybe I should skip dessert. But how can you resist tasting a rose water scented flan and a Phyllo pastry filled with honey and nuts? Needless to say I didn't.

If it's the sugar that sets off your serotonin, the lunch buffet at the Captain's Bar also offers Baklava and other mainstays of the Israeli kitchen like Gefelte fish and Chraime with its spicy sauce up to May 2. Or you may want to add to your culinary skills with Chef Nir's cooking class today, April 28.

A couple of pounds later, I finally rose from my armchair and decided to be nice and share some recipes with you. This should be easy enough to replicate and should be delicious and healthy to boot:

Fried olives with mushrooms consist of sautéing onions chopped coarsely in olive oil until translucent. Add finely chopped mushrooms (250 grams), hot pepper, black pepper and garlic. Continue sautéing until onions are golden brown. Add a half cup of breadcrumbs, 250 grams of green olives, pitted and finely chopped and continue to sauté for two minutes. (If mixture becomes too dry, add a bit of olive oil.) Serve hot with toast or crackers. Enjoy.

Family court

YOUNGBLOOD

Fiel V. Bagalacsa-Abad

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

I AM piqued, indignant, enraged. I am totally frustrated with our justice system. I feel tired, hopeless, crushed. I have nothing and no one to turn to. Ahhh!!

How would any trial judge feel if all his decisions and orders are overturned on appeal by the highest tribunal? Worse, the reversals happen with amazing regularity, like every day. And it's very obvious that the decisions are capricious, whimsical and arbitrary.

The worst part is that it's the accused who wield power over the justices. Without the assistance of counsel, they still win cases even if they don't even have the vaguest idea of what the law is, for in fact they haven't even gone to school. These rascals do not even present any rational argument in court; they simply and openly offer bribes and voila! they get a favorable decision.

And as if to flaunt their influence, these creatures even address the justices as Mommy or Daddy within everyone's hearing.

Caught in such a situation, who wouldn't be upset and indignant? I know everyone will sympathize with me.

I have been on the bench for three years, almost four. Two familiar faces have "graced" the hallowed halls of my court for all those years. Day in and day out, they are on trial and almost always for the same offenses. I had never inhibited myself; there was never any reason for me to do so. Besides, no other judge would dare to hear the case against these two because of their reputation for successfully bending the law in their favor.

I had never let bias taint my decisions. I believe and maintain that I have been just and impartial, giving the parties time and opportunity to present evidence and plead their case before handing down my verdict. My decisions have always been based on facts and supported by law and jurisprudence. But right now, I have just about had my fill.

My sala was in session very early Sunday morning (no holidays or rest days for me). Ysa and T-rex were caught creating public disorder after a short but spirited chase, according to the police. After conducting a preliminary investigation and finding sufficient grounds to bring charges against them, Prosecutor Jun immediately filed a case before my court.

The insolent ones immediately waived their right to counsel and threatened instead to "tell on us." Then they threw a tantrum, wailed and cried and quite simply breached every rule of decorum inside the courtroom. I called for order, but the accused took some time to settle down.

Since the accused refused to plead during the arraignment, the prosecutor presented his witnesses. The apprehending officer testified that while the two were playing with the water hose, they sprayed the sleeping dog, drenching and causing it to yelp and howl in protest. After that, Ysa and T-rex took hold of a stick, smashed several clay pots, uprooted some plants, spilt milk and juice all over the place, left muddy handprints on the newly laundered clothes and threw plastic water bottles at passing vehicles and pedestrians.

Ysa, being the only one who could speak coherently, said in their defense that it was the dog that did it all. T-rex, she said amid her dramatic sobbing, merely yanked the dog's tail and the animal tried to bite his hand in retaliation. So they picked up sticks to ward off the dog's attack and as result of their efforts to defend themselves, chaos and havoc followed.

The court, noting that the arguments of the defense were weak and implausible found both of the accused guilty as charged. They were sentenced to take a bath after two spanks applied to their bottoms.

Ysa and T-rex quickly ran out of the room. Several seconds later, we, the prosecutor and the judge, were summoned by the chief justice. Upon our arrival and without even asking us to explain, she berated us for ignorance of the law and grave abuse of discretion.

Later in the afternoon, the culprits—with their youngest recruit, Pia, in tow—returned to my sala to submit a new petition. They asked that they be allowed to visit the mall, play in the arcades and eat out. I denied the petition for lack of money, er, merit.

The chief justice, who heard my decision, immediately reversed my ruling, in blatant disregard of the established rules of procedure. She called for the prosecutor, the judge and the finance secretary. She ordered the prosecutor to take the car out of the garage, and instructed the judge to look after the rascals, change their clothes and prepare some extra milk bottles. The finance secretary pleaded that he had sore muscles and so he couldn't accompany the accused. He was ordered to surrender, his magical bottomless wallet, instead.

The chief justice is a very well-respected lady of the law. In fact, she won the Jose Abad Santos Award for Judicial Excellence after being picked as one of the Outstanding Judges by the Philippine Judges Association when the award was first handed out. She is much admired for her impartiality and dedication to truth and justice.

Until now. I am dumbfounded by how swiftly she throws all sense of justice and equity to the wind to accommodate certain personages. I am shocked by her about-face. True, the speed with which she disposes of her cases has unclogged the court dockets. I would even concede that she has been consistent in protecting and upholding human rights.

But what about dispensing justice without fear or favor? What about being true to the Lawyer's Oath? Her acts are truly capricious, whimsical and despotic.

I open my mouth to argue a point and she either cites me for contempt, rules against me or reprimands me like some silly school girl. On the other hand, she is all smiles to the other party and accommodates all their requests. She can't say no especially if the appellant sits on her lap, makes gooey eyes, sniffles, sobs and points an accusing finger at me. When all this is capped by a tight hug and several very wet kisses, the justice immediately rules in favor of the offender. If this is not grave abuse of discretion, I do not know what is.

The erosion of this particular justice's credibility and impartiality clearly illustrates the extent of deterioration of our judicial system. I am afraid that I can no longer trust it. The scales of Lady Justice have been tipped and she is peeking through her blindfold.

I bewail this travesty of justice and keep complaining about this to my husband. He reassures me that I have his support and encourages me to do what I think is right, but he can do nothing to correct the situation. My parents even think I have become paranoid and imperious. They say that I should take defeat in stride and learn from it.

Is that all they can say? There is a hopelessness in my situation, I know. But I dare not quit. I simply cannot quit.

The chief justice claims it is the bane of parents, but it is the privilege of being a grandparent.

Fiel V. Bagalacsa-Abad, 25, is a mom to three lively children and a law student from Naga City.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

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Audit needed before talk of raising SSS contributions

WE in the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) are glad that Malacañang has put on hold for two years the suggestion of Social Security System president Vitaliano Nañagas to increase the monthly contributions of Social Security System members. Nañagas said the increase was necessary to allow the SSS to recover P8 billion in losses due to "bad investments" made by his predecessor, Carlos Arellano, a good friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Regarding the P8-billion loss, we think Nañagas understated it to avoid alarming the members too much. On the Equitable PCI Bank investments alone, the SSS has lost so far 55 percent of its investment of P15 billion. Using that as a measure, we can imagine how much its P50-billion portfolio is worth today.

With regard to the proposed increase in contributions, the PARP submits that the two-year waiting period be dedicated to an independent audit by the PARP auditors of the accounting records and management practices of the SSS in the past. Any discussions on the need to increase the monthly contributions should be based on the result of the independent audit.

In addition, we urge President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to order immediately the following as preconditions:

- The prosecution of Arellano and Horace Templo of the SSS and Federico Pascual of the Government Service Insurance System and all the members of the board of directors of the SSS and GSIS for complicity in the criminal acts of Estrada.
- Restitution of the money plundered. The PARP demands that the cash and other assets of Estrada and his cohorts be sequestered to answer for losses and damages to the fund that may be determined by the independent auditors.

In the event that these conditions are not met, the PARP, in behalf of the 23 million SSS members whose funds were plundered by Estrada and his cohorts, will look to the government for redress for the reason that government personnel were responsible for the loss of privately owned funds.—**AMADO F. CABAERO, president, Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), 11 Brosas St., BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City**

The brighter side of bad publicity

ONCE again the city of Lucena and the province of Quezon have been thrust into the front pages of national dailies these days as the hub of the drug trade (in the 1980s it was the insurgency problem). The front-page articles give the impression of a widespread menace caused by drug smuggling centered in Lucena and Quezon.

Although the facts presented may be true, Lucena is an otherwise peaceful city. In fact, Lucena belongs to the group of cities and towns in the country with the lowest crime rates, mostly petty crimes which are seldom drug-related. I know people will raise eyebrows but one has to be in Lucena to see the reality.

Being in the headlines has been a blessing in disguise. In the 1980s, when the insurgency problem was hottest, Lucena was pictured as a hotbed of the communist insurgency. But around that time, too, investors took notice of Lucena and they came to this Southern Tagalog city to invest. The late 1980s saw Lucena's economy take off.

The investors took notice of the strategic location of the city. People saw the tourism potential of Quezon Province, and soon people were flocking to Quezon.

The government can take advantage of this renewed attention by providing the necessary infrastructure and services. Like Mindanao, which has been a victim of bad publicity for decades and is now attracting tourists and investors, Lucena is also looking at the brighter side.

Well, this is just an optimistic view of the latest developments in the city I love.—**RON RADA, ron_rada@yahoo.com**

Rediscovery of Christian values can increase vocations

THIS is in reaction to the letter of Edward M. Kelly last April 20 titled, "Church dilemma: married priests or no priests."

The fact that there is a shortage of priests in the country and around the world is something that the Church must confront if it is to effectively fulfill its mission. It is also a fact that there is a sector within the Catholic Church that advocates optional celibacy among priests.

But to pinpoint the Church rule on priestly celibacy as a major reason for the decline of priestly vocations is not conclusive. We know that the Church has to grapple with many challenges, including the growth of secularism. And many forms of secular advocacy are beginning to challenge the traditions and doctrines of the Church. Among them is the clamor of feminists for women to be ordained to the priesthood. There is also the gay rights movement, which is challenging the basic doctrines of the Church on human sexuality and the family.

The *magisterium* of the Church has not failed to give concrete statements on these issues. As faithful Catholics, we must give our full assent to the doctrinal pronouncements of the *magisterium* of the Church.

Yes, priestly celibacy is not a dogma but a Church rule. It has existed as early as the 11th century in the Western Church. The practice of celibacy is closely associated with the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. Ministers of the Church are expected to live up to the perfect life to which all Christians are called to live.

The priesthood is a calling that demands full attention. Even St. Paul himself recognized the value of celibacy, and wished that all were like him (unmarried), but he recognized that in the Church there are many callings, so if one could not take the call to celibacy then he or she was free to enter matrimony.

I believe that it is in this spirit of wisdom that the medieval Church promoted the rule on priestly celibacy. We should remember that the priest is an *alter Christus*, another Christ. Even in Orthodox Churches of the Eastern tradition where priests are allowed to marry, celibacy is still highly regarded. No one in the orthodox tradition can be promoted to bishop or patriarch if one is married. Thus, celibacy is still a requirement for high office in the Eastern Church.

The mission of Christ requires undivided attention. It is for this reason that priestly celibacy has been a longstanding tradition in the Church.

Priestly celibacy is a tradition and should be respected. It was adopted by the Council of the Church under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Council defines matters of faith, doctrine and religious practice. It is in this way that the Church exercises her power to loose and to bind. For Christ said that whatsoever is bound by the Church shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever is loosed on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Where then shall we trace the decline of priestly vocations in the Church today? I believe that the solution to this problem lies in the need to reevangelize ourselves, that in the midst of secularism, we as Christians must rediscover our Christian values. We have to go back to our first love—i.e., Christ. We have to love the Church, to respect her precepts and to cherish her traditions and teachings.

It is important that children be taught the rudiments of the faith. I believe that even in the midst of secularism and pluralism, a Christian can still live the faith. The secular society far from being a disadvantage is in fact a blessing for it is in this setting that we are given the chance as Christians to bear fruitful witness. I think that if we will rediscover our Christian values and ourselves, there will be no lack of priestly vocations.

This is just an opinion of a lay man who loves the Church.—**DR. HERBERT B. ROSANA, Bicol University, Legazpi City**

LETTERS

Kindness of strangers on the Skyway

WHEN tragedy strikes suddenly and it involves oneself, it is difficult to keep one's wits together.

My son and his family figured in an accident and knowing that he is not able to explain matters at this time, I am taking on this task.

My son and his family were on their way home from Lucena last April 17. They were exiting from the Skyway when the car they were riding in suffered a blowout. The driver lost control of the car which then bounced against the Skyway railing, spun around and landed on its side.

A kind couple stopped their car and helped my son bring his wife, who was apparently more seriously hurt than the others, to the Makati Medical Center. Things happened very fast and my son could only say thanks and gave the couple his calling card. In the confusion, he forgot to get their names.

We may not know them, but I am sure God saw everything and He will reward and bless those kind people and their kind deed.—**ORLANDO PARAGUA, 2446 Tejeron St., Sta. Ana, Manila**

A graft-free bureaucracy

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can have a graft-free bureaucracy by seeing to it that appointees to high government positions have not been linked to any scandal. The saying, "Where there is smoke, there is fire," can serve as a guide in screening or short-listing candidates. The soundness of this saying is found in the behavioral science theory that "a person's past behavior predicts his future behavior."

Had this theory been used by past presidents, our civil service would have been spared the embarrassment of having agency heads whose personal and confidential staff turned out to be graft-prone, instead of graft-free.—**T.B. ABAYAN, 13-A Banning St., North Fairview, Quezon City**

The Credit Card: Key to E-Commerce

The new economy brought about by the emergence of e-commerce provides unlimited opportunities to modern man. The evident power of the Internet is transforming the world even as you read this article. With the influx of information made readily available, every facet of human existence is changing and the dynamic process is unlikely to slow down in the coming years. At the core of this evolving milieu is the ever-reliable credit card.

What began as an extension of customers' revolving line of credit in the 1950's has grown to be the most important financial tool in modern times. With e-commerce, the credit card is as indispensable as the computer. Modern business transactions done over the Internet cannot push through without it. That is to say, without the credit card there can be no e-commerce.

E-commerce is any method of using electronic communications and computer technology to conduct business. It ranges from small businesses receiving orders through their web site to complex and highly automated systems that control the supply chain from initial customer interface to actual management and coordination of suppliers.

Today the most common form is B2C or Business to consumer e-commerce. These are essentially electronic shop fronts that allow businesses to sell goods and services to consumers via the Internet. It works in much the same way as regular shops. A customer goes through the products and services in the website. The customer then makes a purchase decision and enters the order with some of his credit card information. The transaction information is instantly encrypted and transmitted to servers like the QuickCommerce secure server. The information is then sent to the credit card authorization network where the validity of the card is checked and the availability of funds on that account is verified. An authorization code is returned via leased data line to the secure server. The authorization is encrypted by the server and transmitted in encrypted form back to the web server of the merchant, which triggers the fulfillment process of the order. The customer is provided an e-mail receipt and the merchant receives the money within 48 to 72 hours.

With e-commerce, a lot of the inconveniences that comes with the traditional way of shopping for goods and services are eliminated. Most e-commerce sites use sophisticated encryption and secure socket layers which scramble credit card numbers while in transit over the Internet. They also protect their servers from unauthorized hacking attempts by setting them behind sophisticated firewalls. To further protect customers, some merchants use payment gateways which use encrypted credit card information to process payments. Since your credit card number is encrypted and remains encrypted up until it passes through the bank's payment gateway, not even the merchant has access to the number.

For the merchants, e-commerce provides wider access to their goods and services and thus greater profitability. To the consumer, e-commerce opens up a world of choices that allows better decision-making. Thus, e-commerce brings a wealth of benefits for both the consumer and the merchant. And at the very heart of it is the key that allows modern transaction to happen – the credit card.

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Consumers denied ownership of electric co-ops

WE admire Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's efforts to protect the electricity consumers from the abuses of utilities like Meralco as he explicitly cited in his advertorials and recent press releases. We have no dispute with his pronouncements on these institutionalized abuses. In fact, the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc. (Nasecore) is one of the opposers to Meralco's petition for a 30-centavo/kwh rate increase with the Energy Regulatory Board.

But if it is not too much to ask, will Enrile also look into the plight of the 5 million household consumers in the electric cooperative sector who have been denied recognition of their ownership despite the mandate of Republic Act 6938, otherwise known as the Cooperative Code of the Philippines? This claim to ownership is well supported by Presidential Decree 269 and the by-laws of the electric cooperatives.

We hope that the senator will likewise differentiate himself on the electricity issue from party-list aspirants who represent utilities management which are not marginalized or underprivileged as party-list contenders should be.

In this regard, we hope to hear at the soonest possible time some revealing facts about abuses by the electric cooperative management against its member-consumers who, instead of being recognized as real owners, are now sad victims. For instance, Enrile's party-list partners, contrary to law, extracted contributions from cooperative members to finance their campaign in 1998. This illegal exaction has been disallowed by the ERB in ERB Case No. 98-20.

Enrile's party-list partner is a traditional opposer to petitions for rate reduction of electric cooperative members.

Enrile's party-list partner is embroiled in irregularities arising from an unauthorized loan made by the National Electrification Administration to the Philreca.

Magising sana kayo, Mr. Senator, as you will surely be judged by the company you keep.

Enrile's efforts on this issue will directly benefit the 5 million households served by the electric cooperative sector which accounts for 60 percent of the total household consumers in the country and should protect the cooperatives from their real oppressors.—**PETE L. ILAGAN, National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc. (Nasecore), Unit 616 Roxas Seafront Garden Townhomes, Roxas Boulevard corner Ortigas Street, Pasay City**

Japan has its first female foreign minister

NEWS ANALYSIS

TOKYO—Japan got its first ever female foreign minister Thursday after new Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi appointed Makiko Tanaka, the daughter of a former premier, to the job.

The 57-year-old former science and technology agency chief's new job is the most senior government position yet for a Japanese woman.

"I always think about what constitutes the national interest as well as how to protect the country and its people," she said at her first press conference after taking over from Yohei Kono.

Feted by the public for her blunt political style, Tanaka shares Koizumi's reputation for being independent-minded. She is an unknown quantity in international political circles, however.

Best known as the daughter of late premier Kakuei Tanaka, Japan's most powerful post-war politician, she spoke of her experiences of meeting world leaders as she acted as the first lady on her father's overseas trips. "I accompanied my father in 1973 and watched closely the summit between Tanaka and (former Soviet leader Leonid) Brezhnev," she remarked.

But the minister steered clear of commenting on Japan's major diplomatic headaches, including relations with China which have been strained by a trip here by the former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui.

Analysts largely shrugged off her diplomatic credentials. Hideaki Kase, diplomatic analyst and author, dismissed Tanaka as possessing "no diplomatic experience."

"People all over the world have begun to think of politicians as entertainers, but this trend has been taken to the extreme in Japan," Kase said. "Even if you make a lot of sightseeing trips, you cannot be a diplomatic expert. People say the political wind of change has blown, but I feel so insecure, wondering where we are being carried on this wind."

The motives behind Tanaka's appointment reflected Tokyo's bid to repair its relations with China at a time of fragile ties, as her father opened Japan's diplomatic relations with Beijing, another analyst said however.

"She visited China with her father," said Kuniko Inoguchi, political science professor at the Sophia University in Tokyo. "It is the right time for her to assume the post to improve Sino-Japan relations."

Inoguchi said that the straight-talking, no nonsense Tanaka "is an appropriate person," to take over at the foreign ministry which has been humiliated by an in-house probe of a senior diplomat's embezzlement of a secret diplomatic fund for which no receipts were required.

Apart from balancing Japan's relations with China and the United States, Tokyo's other diplomatic dilemmas include a long-standing territorial dispute with Moscow over a group of tiny islands, known as the Kurils in Russia and the Northern Territories in Japan.

A post-war truce was signed in 1956, in which Russia pledged to return at least two of the islands after a peace treaty was signed. A final pact was due to be signed by 2000, but the two sides failed to meet the deadline.

AFP

China vows to take Taiwan 'at any cost'

BEIJING—China yesterday vowed to take back Taiwan at any cost and told the United States to wake up to the danger of selling arms to the island.

Washington must "fully realize the seriousness, danger and gravity of the arms sale and rein in its horse at the brink of the precipice," said an editorial in the government mouthpiece, the Guangming Daily.

The government pledged through state media that it would not allow the United States to prevent the reunification of the Chinese mainland with Taiwan, by force if necessary.

"China is a peace-loving nation and the Chinese Army is a peace-loving Army, but when the territorial land, water and air are violated, we will fight to the end at any price," said an editorial in the military's Liberation Army Daily.

The threats came two days after US President George W. Bush approved the most significant arms sale to Taiwan since 1992, a move that has infuriated China which views the island as a renegade province.

China believes the sale of sophisticated weapons to Taiwan will bolster pro-independence forces on the island and threaten its plans for national unification.

Beijing on Thursday also warned Bush he was moving into dangerous territory with his pledge a day earlier to do "what it takes" to protect Taiwan from Chinese attack.

The editorials Friday said US policymakers should not underestimate China's determination and ability to "solve the Taiwan issue."

"On the question of national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the Chinese people will never give in to any pressure," the Guangming Daily said.

By continuing to sell arms to Taiwan, the United States will not only increase tensions across the Taiwan Straits and in the East Asian region, but will bring harm to itself, warned the editorials, which were signed by unidentified writers.

"If the US continues to provide arms to Taiwan, it's equivalent to turning Taiwan into an arsenal, which could explode at any time," the Guangming Daily said.

"This not only brings Taiwan people greater danger, but also harms the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region and finally harms the United States itself."

Beijing considers Taiwan part of its territory even though the island has been separated from the mainland since 1949 when the Nationalist forces fled there after losing a civil war to the Communists. *AFP*

DISGRUNTLED CADETS

Ethiopian hijacking ends with no bloodshed

KHARTOUM—Five armed air force cadets hijacked an Ethiopian military plane and diverted it to Sudan before freeing all 51 people aboard and surrendering to the authorities before dawn yesterday.

The four men and one woman, who surrendered after 10 hours of negotiations at Khartoum international airport, said they had staged the hijacking to escape tough political and economic conditions at home.

"There are no freedoms," Bagim Berhan Tegegne, one of the hijackers, told reporters after security forces took them into custody while confiscating knives and hand grenades. They had also been reported armed with pistols.

Thirty-three military personnel and six crewmen walked free meanwhile, joining five children and six women who had been released at the beginning of the crisis, played out in a remote and dark corner of the airport.

Most were fairly subdued.

Officials had said that some passengers had been showing signs of dehydration as it was very hot in the plane.

The hijackers, who had been seeking asylum, had conducted their negotiations through a representative who met with the authorities at a room inside the airport, officials told journalists.

Besides the women and children who were released earlier, one crew member managed to escape through the back of the plane shortly after it landed here Thursday.

Sudan's Information Minister Ghazi Salah Eddine Atabani said the five cadets gave up after realizing no third country would admit them and receiving assurances that Sudan would not deport them to Ethiopia.

"We will not send them home," he said.

The official said that the hijackers were informed that they could consult lawyers and obtain a fair trial.

The five seized control of the Russian-made Antonov-12 air force plane while it was flying between military bases in Ethiopia, and diverted it here, diplomats and other source said.

"The hijackers at first asked to travel to any other country and asked for the Sudanese authorities to get them the necessary visas," Atabani said.

"When we convinced them that no country would admit them, they realized they had no other choice and surrendered to the authorities," he said.

"We made them understand that they had committed a serious crime here and put people's lives in danger," Atabani said.

In Addis Ababa, one diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said the plane had just taken off on a domestic flight from the town and key military center of Debre-Zeit, 45 km south of Addis Ababa, when it was hijacked.

Witnesses said the plane then headed for Sudan at a low altitude, apparently to evade radar detection.

Speaking earlier on state television, Atabani refused to confirm reports there were nine hijackers and that they were students from Addis Ababa University.

The campus was the scene of bloody clashes earlier this month, but no link had been made with the hijacking. *AFP*

Medal to stay with senator

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon has not considered withdrawing a Vietnam War combat medal awarded to former senator Bob Kerrey after a raid in which he now says only women and children were killed, a spokesperson said Thursday.

Rear Admiral Craig Quigley said the medal could be rescinded if it were found to be based on false information, but added, "Right now, I know of no such effort under way or considered."

Kerrey, a Navy lieutenant at the time, was awarded the Bronze Star for valor for leading the nighttime commando attack Feb. 25, 1969, on a village where communist Viet Cong leaders were believed to be meeting.

Praising his "heroic achievement," the citation that accompanied the medal said Kerrey and his men killed 21 Viet Congs in two separate firefights.

"Lieutenant (junior grade) Kerrey's outstanding professionalism, leadership, courage under fire and regard for the safety of his men were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service," the citation said.

But in a series of interviews, Kerrey has admitted only civilians were killed.

He said his men opened fire after coming under fire from the village.

"We just stood back and poured everything we could into this place where we were taking fire. And when we came into the village—and it wasn't a big village, just four or five hooches—there was a cluster of women and children, and they were all dead," he told CBS News. *AFP*

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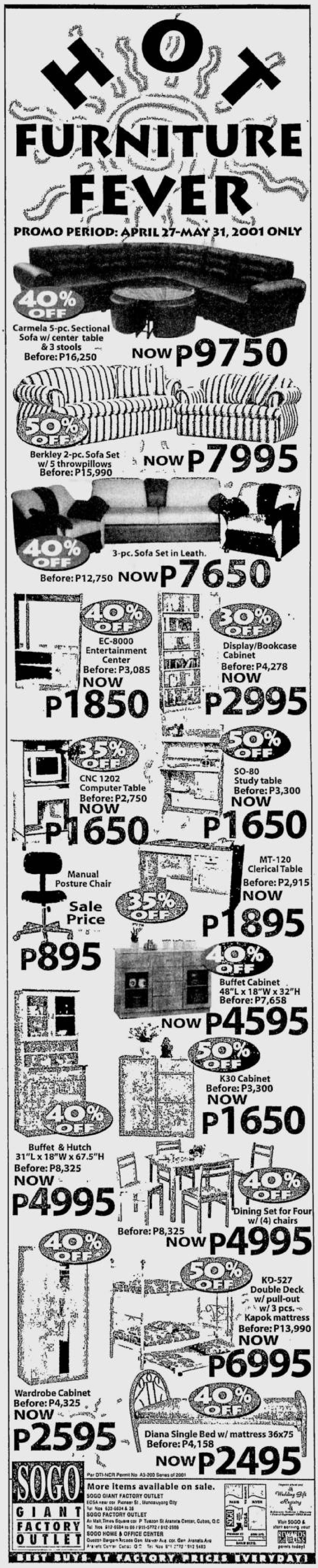

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

2 bandit suspects slain by troopers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Two suspected members of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf were killed in an encounter with government troopers in Talipao, Sulu on Thursday afternoon.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, Task Force Comet spokesperson, said elements of the 26th Special Forces Company were conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Barangay Mabahay in Talipao when they chanced upon five suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits. A 15-minute firefight ensued.

Two of the suspected bandits were killed.

Two MG-520 attack helicopters also provided aerial support to the ground troopers, forcing the other bandit suspects to flee.

Narcise said the military is continuing its operations to rescue Filipino hostage Roland Ullah, a diving instructor who was one of the 21 mostly foreign hostages who were taken from a resort in Sipadan, Malaysia last year.

"It is only a matter of time before we will be able to safely recover Ullah from the hands of the Abu Sayyaf," Narcise said. *Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pacificador leaves jail to campaign for governor

BY HAZEL VILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—Jailed candidate for governor Arturo Pacificador made his first campaign appearance here, taking advantage of a court order allowing him to leave his detention cell for a medical check-up.

Pacificador, who is facing murder charges for the 1986 killing of political rival Gov. Evelio Javier, staged a caravan on Thursday, the last day of his court-approved leave, to promote his gubernatorial bid under the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, the party of his close ally, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Pacificador was able to get out of jail after Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12 granted him a leave of court from April 17-26 so he could go to the Philippine Heart Center in Manila for a follow-up medical check-up.

Pacificador arrived in the northern town of Pandan at 9:15 a.m. where he was met by a convoy of supporters in six trucks, one bus and seven jeepneys.

Local journalists, who covered the caravan, estimated that about 1,000 people joined Pacificador. The caravan passed through 14 of the province's 18 towns.

They did not pass by the towns of Libertad, Caluga, Valderrama and San Remegio because these were either out of the way or were mountainous areas.

Pacificador returned to his detention cell on Thursday night after the caravan that ended about 7 p.m.

Pacificador told reporters that even if he went back to detention, his leaders would still be out there to campaign for him.

As the principal accused in the Javier murder on Feb. 11, 1986, Pacificador is detained at the Antique Provincial Jail at Binirayan Hills here.

In his request for a medical check-up, Pacificador showed the court a copy of his doctor's referral and medical certificate for a series of examinations at the PHC's Pathology Department this April.

On April 18, Pacificador left for Manila, accompanied by two provincial jail guards. Pacificador paid for the guards' travel and food expenses as ordered by the court.

Candidate for governor Damian Marfil (Reporma) said he would consult his lawyers over the possible filing of a complaint against Pacificador for possible violation of Castrojas' court order.

Marfil said the order of Castrojas specifically stated that "from April 19, 2001 to April 26, 2000, Pacificador is prohibited from going to any other place except his house in Metro Manila and the Philippine Heart Center."

Incumbent Gov. Exequiel Javier, who is running for Antique's lone congressional district seat under the Lakas-NUCD, said it would be up to the prosecutors to file a complaint against Pacificador.

"It's the court (which) has to decide whether (or not) he should be cited for contempt. I cannot intervene, but there should be a complainant," Javier told the INQUIRER.

This was not the first time that Pacificador took advantage of a leave of court granted to him.

On Feb. 28, Pacificador personally filed his certificate of candidacy for governor at the Commission on Elections provincial office. Earlier that day, he held a press conference at Hamtik town.

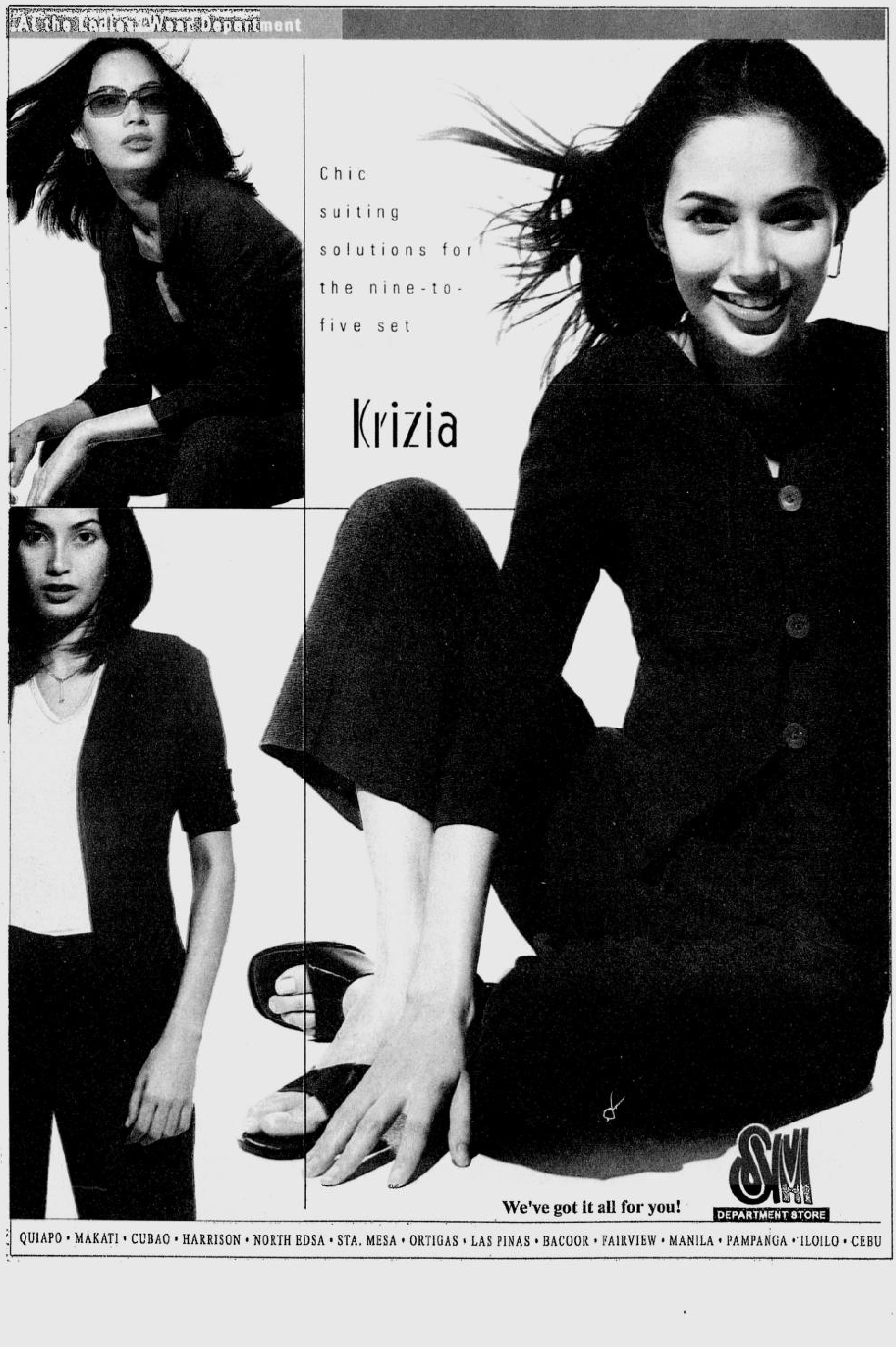
He was able to get out of jail after Antique RTC Executive Judge Nery Duremdes granted him permission on Feb. 21 to leave for the PHC for his regular medical check-up.

Duremdes granted Pacificador's "very urgent motion" on Feb. 19. He and prison guard Rodney Santiago flew to Manila on Feb. 22 via Iloilo City and went back to Antique on Feb. 27.

Aside from Marfil, Pacificador is also up against Sally Zaldivar-Perez (Lakas-NUCD-LDP) in the gubernatorial race.

Zaldivar-Perez is a scion of the Zaldivar clan in Antique, a Javier ally and long-time political enemy of Pacificador. She lost two nephews and two cousins in the 1984 Pangpang encounter that Pacificador, then assemblyman of Antique, was accused of masterminding.

The court, however, acquitted Pacificador in the killing of seven supporters of Javier on Pangpang Bridge in Sibalom town, saying the prosecution failed to establish that Pacificador conspired with his security men to kill Javier's supporters.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Lawyer in slay of Lakas exec sued for murder

BY RECTO VIDAL
PDI Visayas Bureau

KALIBO, Aklan—Police filed murder and frustrated murder charges against a lawyer yesterday for shooting to death a Lakas-NUCD leader in Aklan in Barangay Dumaguit, New Washington town.

Charged before the provincial prosecutor's office was Benito Salazar, former legal counsel of senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson in the infamous Kuratong Baleleng case.

He was ordered by the prosecutor's office to submit a counter-affidavit in three days to answer charges that he killed Raymundo Rodriguez while Rodriguez was being interviewed by a broadcast reporter.

Salazar was transferred to a detention cell at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in Barangay Nalooc, this capital town, shortly after the complaints were filed.

He was earlier detained at the Aklan Provincial Police Office after he surrendered to authorities about two hours after the killing.

Salazar is a known ally of outgoing Rep. Allen Quimpo, board member Gabrielle Calizo (LDP), congressional candidate for the province's lone district, and reelectionist Gov. Florencio Miraflores (LDP).

The victim was a political leader of Leovigildo Mationg (Lakas-NUCD), Calizo's opponent in the congressional race.

He is the younger brother of former Balete Mayor Potenciano Rodriguez and Rizal Rodriguez Jr., Lakas-NUCD vice mayoral candidate in Balete.

On Thursday, Rodriguez was being interviewed by Bombo Radyo reporter Judel Rentillo in front of the Eagle stevedoring office at the Dumaguit Pier in New Washington when Salazar suddenly appeared and allegedly fired his .9mm pistol at Rodriguez.

Rentillo jumped into the water and hid himself in the pier because, he said, Salazar also trained his gun at him, fired a shot but missed.

Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, police director for Western Visayas, said he had ordered Supt. Jimmy Rivera, Aklan police chief, to conduct a speedy and impartial investigation of the case.

Rivera said he would treat the investigation as an "ordinary case."

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

⛅ Metro Manila Hi 36° Lo 25°	⛅ Baguio Hi 27° Lo 17°	⛈ Tuguegarao Hi 32° Lo 23°	⛈ Laoag Hi 35° Lo 24°
⛅ Clark Zone Hi 34° Lo 24°	⛅ Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 23°	⛅ Legazpi Hi 32° Lo 27°	⛅ Calapan Hi 33° Lo 24°
⛅ Bacolod Hi 33° Lo 26°	⛅ Roxas Hi 33° Lo 27°	⛅ Cebu Hi 33° Lo 25°	⛅ Tacloban Hi 34° Lo 25°
⛈ Gen. Santos Hi 28° Lo 24°	⛈ Zamboanga Hi 31° Lo 25°	⛈ Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 23°	⛈ Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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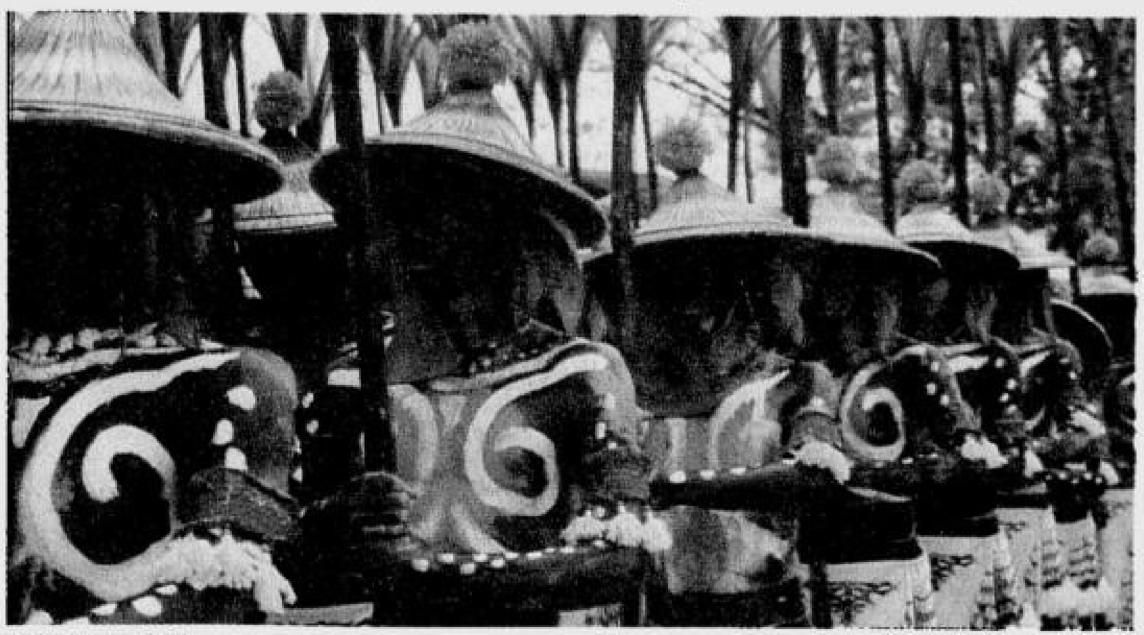


'PINTADOS' GUIJO DUENAS

Wonder no more why the feast in which these painted warriors took part is called "Pintados." The feast was held last month also to mark the third anniversary of the cityhood of Passi, Iloilo.

Left no longer scary for voters, says Satur

BAGUIO CITY—The Left no longer scares voter as latest surveys reveal a heightened public preference for mainstream left-wing political groups in the country, former National Democratic Front spokesperson Satur Ocampo said here Tuesday.

Ocampo, president of the political party Bayan Muna, said the latest Pulse Asia survey had been giving top marks for his party and other militant organizations like the party-list group Akbayan.

This trend spoke volumes about the "new credibility" that activist groups have been accorded since the Left's initial foray into politics through the Partido ng Bayan in the 1980s, Ocampo told a press conference here.

The Pulse Asia credibility rating gave Bayan Muna 43 percent of the over-all ranking for party-list candidates, with Akbayan slightly trailing behind with a 37 percent rank at third place, he said.

The Left's sudden popularity among voters surfaced just as the National Democratic Front prepared for the resumption of peace talks with the government.

Ocampo said the trend suggested that new generation has managed to overcome the "Red Scare" propaganda that prevailed 30 years ago, when the toughest and bloodiest guerrilla war had occurred between the Marcos administration and the New People's Army.

Much of the First Quarter Storm generation and the activism that was ignited by martial law were automatically labeled as a communist plot, propagating the theory that all anti-government sentiments were Maoist, he said.

Public perceptions against the Left failed to shift even after the 1986 People Power Revolution.

Despite the reconciliation policy offered by former President Corazon Aquino, every links to Partido ng Bayan were considered "a kiss of death" for thriving political careers, Ocampo said.

"Sen. Jovito Salonga, who was running for president (in 1992), was endorsed by the Partido ng Bayan, but while he accepted the endorsement, Salonga asked the party not to make their support public," Ocampo recalled.

He said the survey trend validated reports from Bayan Muna's campaign offices that indicate a "sure shot" for three Bayan Muna nominees for party-list seats in the 12th Congress. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Tañada slams 'bully tactics' of US lobbyists

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Rep. Wigberto "Bobby" Tañada has denounced the "bullying tactics" of a United States-controlled lobby group which is currently exerting pressure to have the Philippines placed on the priority watchlist of violators of intellectual property rights.

Tañada also expressed support for the campaign of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to unmask and counter the hidden agenda of the influential US lobby group.

He identified the group as the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA), a federation of seven trade associations with a membership of 1,450 American firms, which is pressuring the US Trade Representative to remove the Philippines from the ordinary list and put it back on the priority watchlist.

Quoting a DTI announcement, Tañada said in a statement that the IIPA is exaggerating the losses of American software companies, publishers, and movie and music producers from bootlegging activities in the country.

The DTI said the IIPA claim of $200 million in piracy losses is bloated, since the methodology used to arrive at such a figure is overly simplistic.

Tañada noted that the Philippines was removed from the priority watchlist of violators of Intellectual Property Rights and placed on the ordinary list in 1997, when the Philippines passed the Intellectual Property Rights Code. "While it may be true that software and copyright piracy is going on in the Philippines, vigorous measures are being taken to curb it," Tañada said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

NPAs kill cop's daughter

CABANATUAN CITY—A nine-year-old daughter of a policeman was killed and three other children were wounded when suspected New People's Army rebels opened fire on a patrol jeep driven by the policeman in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija last week. Killed was Jackie Ramos while her sisters Jennifer, 13, and Jocelyn, 11, and relative Jhon Grace Ramos were wounded. Reports said SPO1 Danilo Ramos of the Alfonso Castañeda police in Nueva Vizcaya, the apparent target of the gunmen, was unhurt.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Gapan plebiscite today

CABANATUAN CITY—The Commission on Elections has set today (April 28) the plebiscite for the ratification of Republic Act 9022 or the law converting Gapan, Nueva Ecija into a component city. If ratified, Gapan will be the fifth component city in Nueva Ecija after Palayan, San Jose, Cabanatuan and the Science City of Muñoz. Nueva Ecija Rep. Julita Villareal sponsored Gapan's cityhood bill at the House of Representatives while Sen. Sergio Osmeña III authored its counterpart bill in the Senate.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Bet stays hopeful

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Despite a lower court ruling that disqualified her as a candidate for the May 14 elections for being an unregistered voter in the province, opposition gubernatorial candidate Luz Parungao-Viado said she would exhaust all legal remedies to push her candidacy against reelectionist Gov. Josefina de la Cruz. Viado, a businesswoman and candidate of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, said she would bring her appeal to higher courts until she is declared a legal Bulacan resident and qualifies as a candidate. Should the courts and the Comelec disqualify Viado, De la Cruz of the Lakas-NUCD would be assured of victory for a second term.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fake NFA agent busted

DIGOS CITY—Police arrested a man who posed as an agent of the National Food Authority (NFA). Lorenzo Camayang, North Cotabato NFA provincial manager, said Wendell Ramos, who had allegedly victimized a number of businessmen in the province, was arrested by the Tagum City police after duping several persons in Davao del Norte. Ramos had presented himself as an NFA agent authorized to process applications for NFA retail stores. He allegedly collected franchise fees from his victims.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Enough rice assured

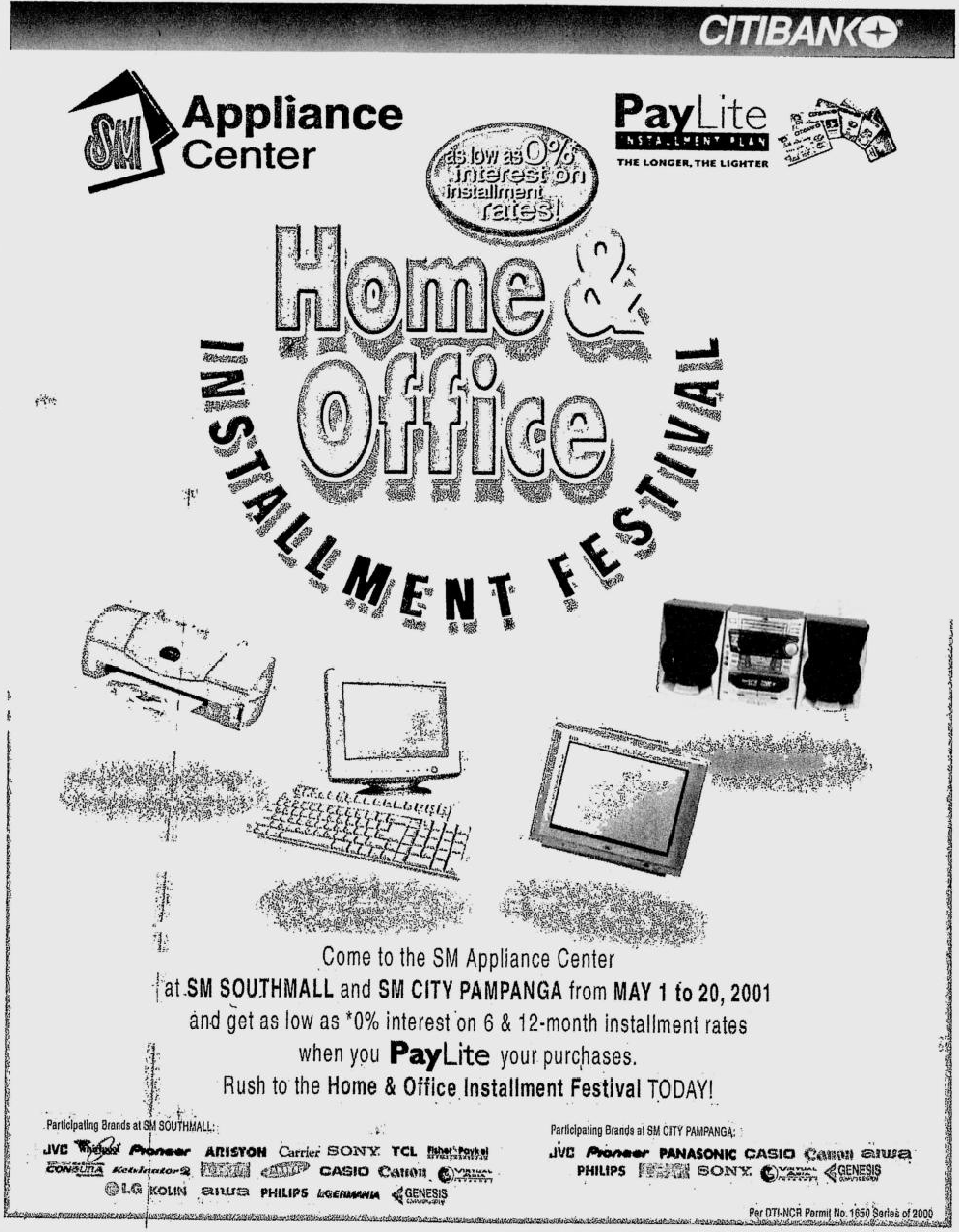
COTABATO CITY—The National Food Authority (NFA) in Sultan Kudarat has assured the public that it has enough supply of rice even if the province would be hit by the El Niño phenomenon. Geronimo Palomo, NFA provincial manager, said the province has a supply of 19,133 bags of rice and 287,772 bags of palay in its warehouses. The NFA inventory also showed that 700,000 bags of buffer stocks of rice and palay have been deposited to the Southern Philippine Grains Center in Tacurong City.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Town feast set

THE SAN MIGUEL de Mayumo Tourism Board Translacion Committee chaired by Francisco DV Buencamino will launch Pagkakaisa ng Bayan sa Translacion de San Miguel Arkangel, the reenactment of the incidents surrounding the birth of San Miguel de Mayumo town.

To be featured is the discovery of a miraculous image in Madlum Cave, Sibul Springs, to be followed by a motorcade to transport the image to the town center. A ritual will commemorate the naming of the town after St. Michael the Archangel, the town's patron. Activities start May 4 for a vigil of spiritual groups at the Our Father's Park in Madlum, Sibul.



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Justice warns of weakening plunder case

DAVAO CITY—A Sandiganbayan justice warned that the government could lose the plunder case against Joseph Estrada if any of the divisions of the anti-graft court would not allow the Ombudsman to withdraw the other cases filed against the ousted President.

Justice Rodolfo Palattao, a member of the Sandiganbayan's fourth division, on Tuesday night said if any of the four divisions of the anti-graft court refused to grant the Ombudsman's motion to withdraw the cases, proceed with the trial and eventually acquit Estrada, it will have serious implications on the plunder case.

Palattao explained that the sets of information used by the Ombudsman in the plunder case are the same sets of information used in the three other cases that are now distributed in the various divisions of the anti-graft court.

These four items in the plunder case, Palattao said, are:

- The P545 million bribery case in relation to the "juetengate" scandal.
- The P130 million tobacco excise tax allegedly stashed by Estrada.
- The alleged P189.7 million commissioned amassed by Estrada in the purchase of Belle Corp.'s shares of stocks worth about P1.8 billion using funds from the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.
- The unjust enrichment case wherein Estrada allegedly wrongly declared his statements of assets and liabilities as proven by the existence of the Jose Velarde account.

Palattao added that a fifth case, pertaining to perjury based on Estrada's use of aliases in the Jose Velarde account, that is now pending in the fourth division, has not been withdrawn.

Palattao believes that the case is linked to plunder since the accused allegedly used an alias to hide the money he plundered.

But he noted that the decision of the Ombudsman to divide the cases and raffle these off to the various divisions of the Sandiganbayan could destroy the government's plunder case.

He said if any of the four cases loses, chances are it would have a "domino effect" and weaken the plunder case.

Palattao added that it would be awkward for the third division, which handles the plunder case, to ignore the decision of other divisions of the Sandiganbayan.

"For filing several cases, that's not the right move. The right move now, apparently, will be to maintain only one case," he said.

But he added that maintaining one case would be a problem because not all of the justices in the Sandiganbayan's four divisions would likely grant the Ombudsman's motion to withdraw the cases.

Palattao said he was inclined to approve the Ombudsman's petition to withdraw the P130 billion case which was raffled to their division.

But he said there was no assurance that his colleagues in the fourth division will agree to his opinion on the matter.

"The Sandiganbayan is a collegiate court, we have four divisions. My personal opinion on the matter may not be the opinion of the others," he said.

He said they have 90 days to resolve the Sandiganbayan's motion to withdraw. But he said the Ombudsman's error in dividing the cases instead of consolidating it into a plunder case will unduly delay the case.

Palattao said even if all the four divisions of the Sandiganbayan granted the Ombudsman petition withdrawing the cases, it will be contested by Estrada's lawyers in the Supreme Court, further delaying the case.

He added that repeating the information already stipulated in the plunder case could constitute "double jeopardy." *Jowel Canuday and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Esperanza' soars to freedom in Davao

ESPERANZA, Sultan Kudarat—Some four hours before ousted President Joseph Estrada was arrested, a female Philippine Eagle *(Pithecophaga jefferyi)* soared high to its freedom at exactly 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The eagle, named Esperanza, was released to her natural habitat in the mountain range of Daguma in Sitio Uguis, Barangay Marquez here after it was airlifted from Davao City by a Philippine Air Force helicopter.

The eagle was turned over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) in Davao City on Feb. 28 by Esperanza town resident Agustin Andelon.

The eagle then had four pellet wounds—one in the breast and three in the left thigh.

"She also had old wounds when retrieved. We suspect they (eagles) are being shot and persecuted by hunters," Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director, told the INQUIRER.

Andelon, 34, said he saw the wounded eagle when he checked on his baits in the forest.

"The release basically underscores the importance of wild populations. What happened to her gives impetus to our anti-hunting campaign," Salvador said.

Esperanza is the third eagle, tagged with a radio transmitter, released to the wild since 1994. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TO THE skies a Philippine Eagle soars following its release from rehabilitation at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao.

GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

200 ship firm workers fired

ILOILO CITY—A crippling strike threatened to disrupt the operations of Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco) after the management laid off around 200 employees on Saturday.

Benny de la Puerta, president of the Nenaco Iloilo-Negros Employees Labor Union (Inelu), representing more than 600 regular employees nationwide, said they might hold a strike soon to protest the retrenchments.

De la Puerta said about 200 employees were ordered to disembark from the company's vessels in Manila, Bacolod, and Iloilo. Those in Manila were later billeted in hotels and given plane tickets to Iloilo.

Nestor Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau

Bataan workers demand settlement

BY GREG REFRACCION
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MARIVELES, Bataan—Some 450 workers of a Japanese firm at the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ) which had closed shop have sought the immediate settlement of their claims worth more than P50 million in salaries and benefits.

Iwahori Philippines, maker of disposable lighters for export, stopped operation in January last year reportedly due to lack of market and high costs of production.

BEZ administrator Emiliano Reyes said Iwahori left behind obligations worth P8.3 million in building rentals and unpaid water and power bills.

The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) had already issued a writ of execution in favor of the workers for the recovery of their claims.

The supervisors are asking for P3.9 million while the rank and file employees are asking for P44.4 million.

The workers' claim is reportedly compounded by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority's (Peza) insistence to deduct P8.3 million from the proceeds of the sale of Iwahori's assets. The amount represents the unpaid bills of Iwahori to Peza as of March 2001.

The workers had asked NLRC chair Roy Señeres, through Bataan Rep. Enrique Garcia, to give priority to the workers' claim.

Garcia said if the workers are to be given priority, the proceeds should first be used to fully settle their claims.

"And the surplus, if any, should be used to pay for the duties and fees imposed by (the) customs (bureau) and accounts of Iwahori to Peza," he said.

Raul Soldevilla, chief of the BEZ's industrial relations division, said initial payments have already been made to a number of workers.

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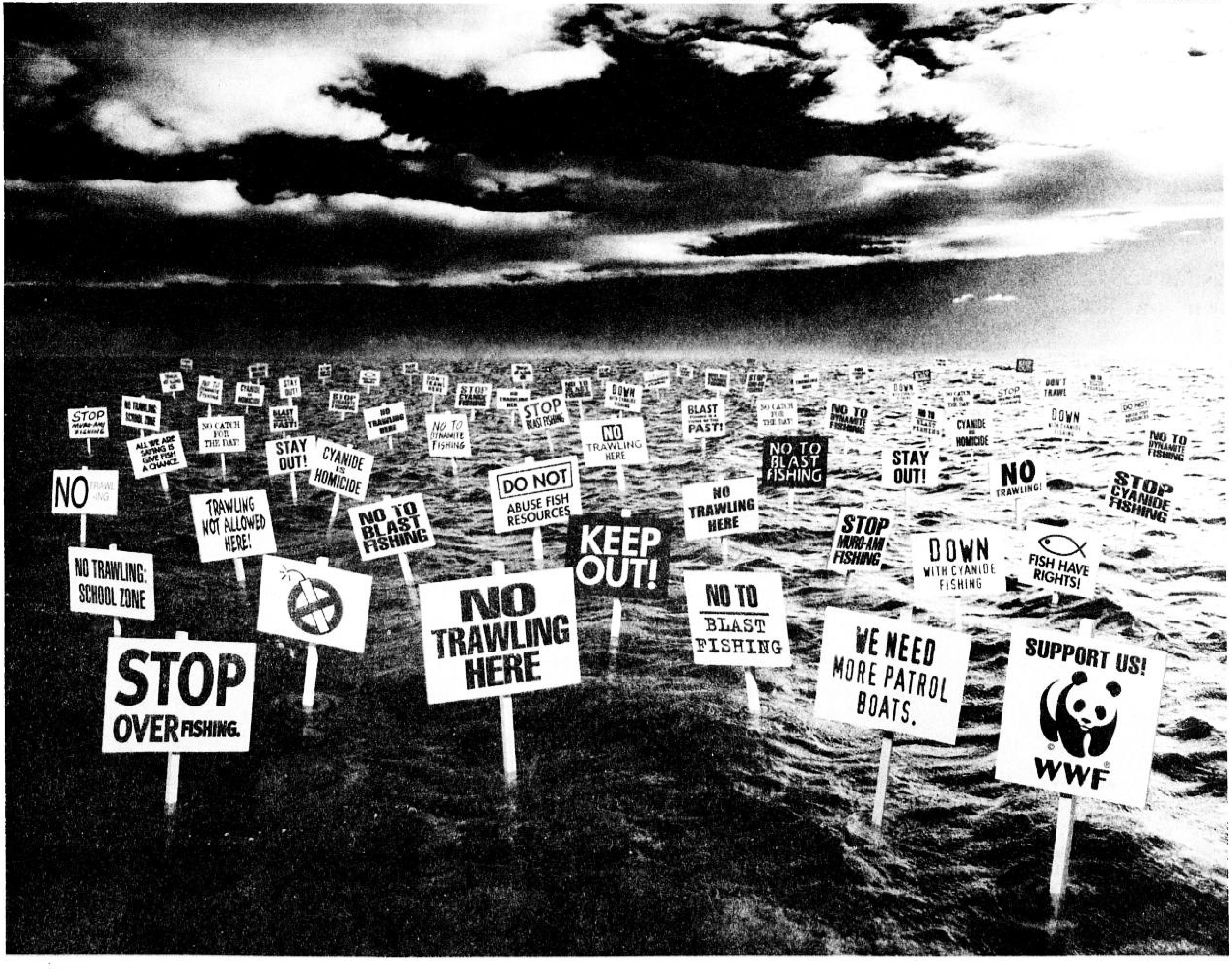

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Secret deals feared in talks

DAVAO CITY—Former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado called on the government to hold broad multi-sectoral consultations before making any commitments in the peace negotiations with the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF).

Mercado warned that unless consultations are done, the government-NDF talks which opened in Oslo, Norway yesterday, will be open to suspicions of "secret agreements" like what happened with the accord entered into by government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) emissaries in Kuala Lumpur last month.

Mercado noted that the government-MILF Kuala Lumpur talks was shrouded with secrecy and that before the public knew it, the government already made an agreement with the rebel group.

Government peace panel chair Jesus Dureza, however, denied secret deals were forged in the Kuala Lumpur talks.

But Mercado insisted that there should be wider public consultation on the government's peace agenda in the talks before the peace panel makes any commitment with the NDF on certain policy changes.

Mercado also urged the government to put a time frame for the talks with the NDF. Otherwise, he said, peace negotiations will go on forever without it being ever resolved.

He said the holding of a long period of talks with the NDF would only allow the rebel group to strengthen themselves.

He also expressed concern over the holding of the talks in a foreign venue, as this would grant the NDF the status of belligerency that it has been seeking.

"However, I would be willing to bend backwards (on the venue issue) as the government seems to be doing for us to accommodate (the) negotiations," Mercado said. ***Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Basilan town now a city

ISABELA CITY—Despite a low turnout of voters in Wednesday's plebiscite, this capital town of Basilan has been declared a city.

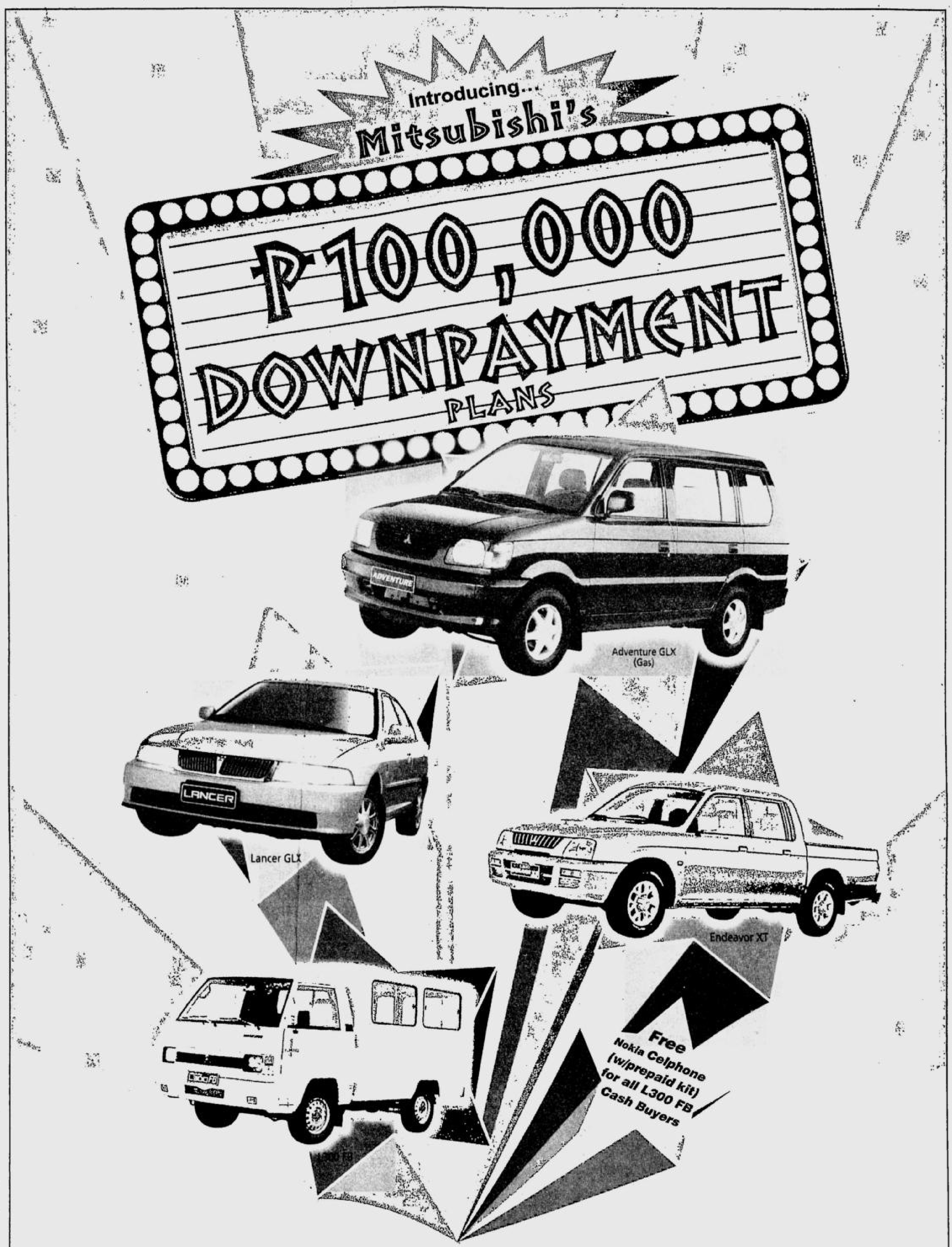
Lawyer Helen Flores, regional chief of the Commission on Elections, said of Isabela's 34,448 registered voters, only 10,169 voted for the cityhood bid while 913 people said "no" to it.

Flores attributed the poor voters' turnout to the "people's lack of interest."

"The very proximate date of plebiscite to the May 14 elections had been considered as partisan or political. In fact, some people associated the yes votes to a certain candidate, while the no votes to another candidate," Flores said.

But Daryll Kinazo, Isabela municipal election officer, said they did their best to go from one barangay to another for the information campaign on the plebiscite.

"We even had this close coordination with other different line agencies for the said campaign," Kinazo said. ***Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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100,000	44,719	30,980	24,731	17,796	14,374	13,039

MODEL: **Lancer GLX M/T**
SRP: **P615,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
100,000	45,086	31,234	24,934	17,942	14,492	13,146

MODEL: **Endeavor XT**
SRP: **P705,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
100,000	51,684	35,805	28,583	20,567	16,613	15,069

* Bank Rates as of April 1, 2001

MODEL: **L300 FB - Dual Aircon**
SRP: **P542,000**

TERM	12	18	24	36	48	60
Downpayment	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
100,000	39,734	27,527	21,974	15,812	12,772	11,585

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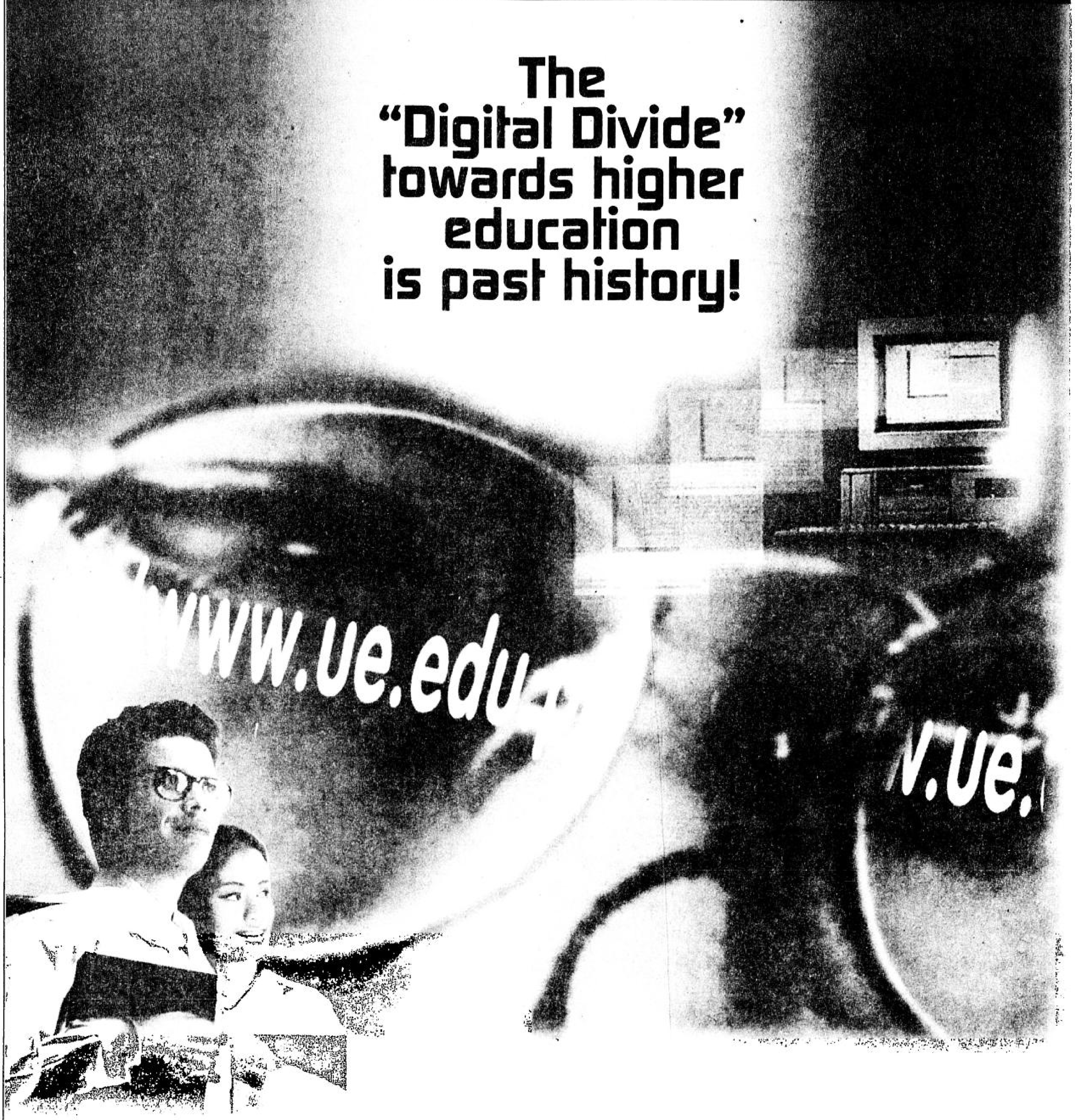

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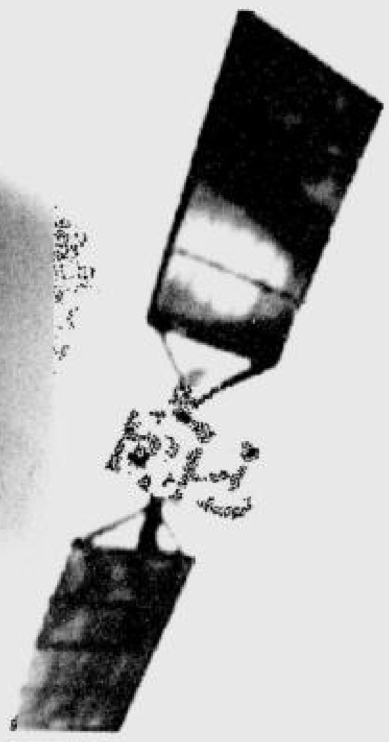

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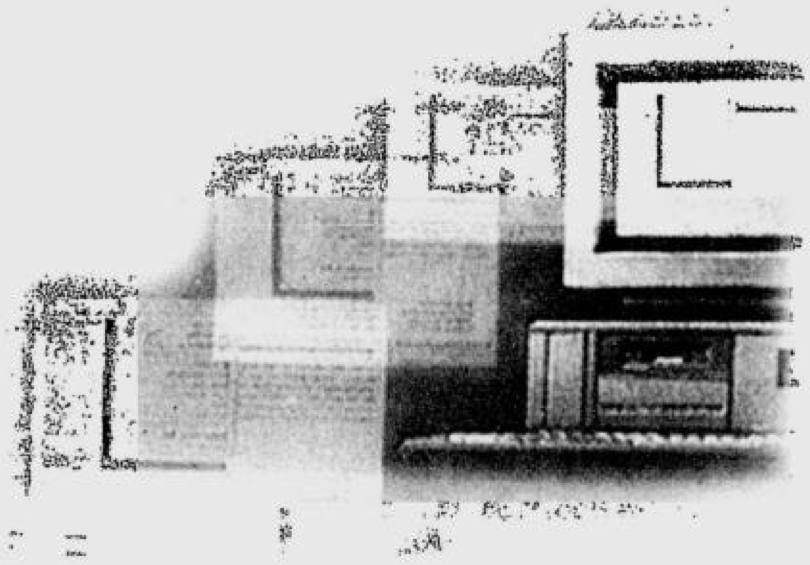

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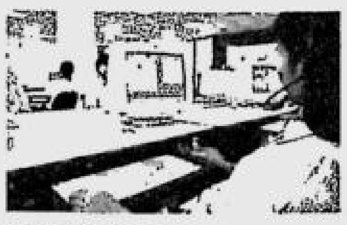

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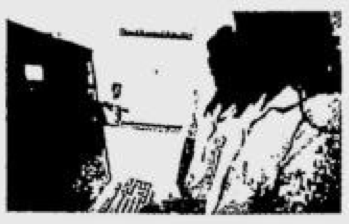

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The 'pawikan' continues to weep

BY NAGIEL BAÑACIA
Cebu City

LEGEND has it that the Green Sea Turtle or *pawikan* was once a woman who was driven out of her home, lost her children, and went out to sea weeping never to return.

Nowadays, the weeping isn't over for the helpless *pawikan*, an endangered species.

Despite the ban on the killing of the *pawikan*, its meat is still a favorite dish offered in small stalls on F. Rallos Street in Cebu City's coastal village of Pasil.

Pasil has been known as the place where one can readily get *pawikan* dishes, cooked in a variety of ways. These are openly sold in the small eateries that line the F. Rallos Street.

But nobody has been arrested or charged with violating the ban because policemen, court personnel, city officials and even personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources here are among the usual customers of these eateries.

The meat of the marine turtle is said to be among the most delicious. Word also has it that turtle meat is also an aphrodisiac. Although it has not been scientifically proven, the rumor's appeal is such that most of the eateries' clientele are males.

Some years back, the marine turtles were openly slaughtered in the Pasil Fish Market, its meat cooked, while the shell is sold to curio shops that make souvenir items.

It was the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos who issued Administrative Order 12 on Nov. 15, 1979 prohibiting the trade of marine turtles or any of its by-products.

The ban was widely enforced during the Aquino administration.

In November last year, the Cebu City council enacted an ordinance penalizing the taking, catching, selling, purchasing, transporting, possessing and exporting of marine turtles.

'Secret' trade

Despite the ban, the trade persisted. *Pawikan* meat, until this time, is smuggled in daily by purseiners—or big fishing boats that use small fishing nets—from Cebu's northern towns of Bantayan and Medellin and from the nearby provinces of Negros Oriental and Bohol.

Almost every day, *pawikan* meat is brought to the eateries inside iceboxes, according to Elpidio de la Victoria, project director of the Cebu City Bantay Dagat Commission.

HELPLESS creatures get a helping hand from environmental volunteers who seized several turtles about to be shipped to Pasil.
PHOTO COURTESY OF BANTAY DAGAT

Danny, a helper in one of the eateries in Pasil, revealed that *pawikan* meat usually arrives at dawn, brought by trucks that deliver fish to the Pasil Fish Market. The *pawikan* meat is placed alongside boxes containing fish.

De la Victoria said the big fishing vessels are the ones that hunt the marine turtle, slaughter them in the high seas and sell them in Pasil.

He said marine turtles are hunted in the seas off Palawan, Negros Oriental and as far as the Sulu Sea.

The biggest haul Bantay Dagat intercepted in August last year was in the northern Cebu town of Liloan, where they confiscated 100 kilos of meat.

De la Victoria said they are keeping a close watch on the Badjao fishermen who live in Cebu City's coastal village of Alaska, Mambaling, because they are known to be good *pawikan* hunters.

Four live marine turtles had been recovered from Badjao fishermen a few months ago, he said.

Pasil barangay captain Romeo Ocarol said the open slaughter of marine turtles at the Pasil Market was stopped since the creation of the Bantay Dagat in 1996. Now, he revealed, marine turtles are slaughtered in secret. The Bantay Dagat Commission said it has information that at least 100 kilos of *pawikan* meat are clandestinely sold in Pasil everyday.

The residents of Pasil do not just sell *pawikan* meat. They are *pawikan* meat eaters and thus became its best cooks.

Ocarol, born and raised in Pasil, admitted that he, too, grew up eating *pawikan* meat. *Pawikan* meat tastes like beef, he said.

Until the mid-1990's, almost all of the eateries along F. Rallos Street featured a marine turtle menu. Most of these eateries were supposed to have stopped offering *pawikan* dishes after the commission implemented the ban.

But one eatery located in a basketball court along F. Rallos Street openly lists a menu of marine turtle meat, which is available daily. One serving costs P25.

One way of cooking the meat is locally known as *larang*, or boiling the meat in a cauldron filled with all sorts of spices, such as garlic, onions, peppercorns, ginger and raw tamarind.

It can also be sautéed in garlic, onions and ginger, with black beans added later. It can also be cooked like beefsteak.

According to Danny, a helper in the eatery, *pawikan* is best cooked with plenty of spices.

He said they cook as much as 50 to 80 kilos per day. The cooking starts at 5 a.m.

Ocarol said *pawikan* dishes are available until 1:30 p.m.

If there is no supply of *pawikan* meat, Danny said they would use other fish varieties, even stingray. These fish are cooked in the same way as the *pawikan* meat.

Aphrodisiac

Teddy, an avid marine turtle eater, said he eats *pawikan* at least four times a week. He claims it whets his sexual appetite.

Teddy, a 53-year-old policeman, claimed that he could sustain three rounds of sexual intercourse with his girlfriend in a night, if he eats turtle meat.

"Mister Tan," a Filipino-Chinese businessman from Taboan Market, on the other hand, claimed that his body would heat up if he eats *pawikan*.

"It is more (potent) than Viagra (the regulated drug that is supposed to provide temporary cure to impotence)," he claimed.

De la Victoria and Ocarol, however, said claims that *pawikan* meat is an aphrodisiac remains a myth.

Findings from a study done by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources revealed that "there is no scientific or medical proof to validate the aphrodisiac claims."

Tan also said *pawikan* meat is the best cure for asthma. He, however, warned that *pawikan* meat is bad for those who have hypertension, because of its high cholesterol content.

De la Victoria said shells of *pawikan* used as souvenirs could still be found inside houses in Pasil and its adjoining Barangay Suba.

A DENR report showed that there was a thriving underground trade of marine turtle by-products such as stuffed turtles, varnished turtle shells, eyeglass frames and fashion jewelry such as earrings, bracelets, rings and hair clips.

De la Victoria said marine turtle shells were even made into guitars in Lapu-lapu City factories.

He said several tourist shops used to sell ornaments made of marine turtle shells in Lapu-lapu City.

But the business slowed down and became clandestine in 1995 because of the lack of supply of marine turtle shells.

Laws

On April 29, 1982, then strongman Ferdinand Marcos issued a memorandum order suspending permits for marine turtle exploitation. On Jan. 21 the next year, Marcos again issued Administrative Order No. 1 under the then Ministry of Natural Resources deputizing local government officials as conservation officers in areas identified as critical for the protection of marine turtles throughout the country.

"The administrative orders are already obsolete, that is why Bantay Dagat recommended the creation of an ordinance that covers the prohibition of even cooking *pawikan* meat," De la Victoria said.

De la Victoria said the purpose of City Ordinance 1865 authored by Councilor Firmo Dayao is to deny the market of *pawikan* meat.

"Mere possession of *pawikan* meat is already prohibited under the ordinance. It is punishable with a fine of P1,500 but not more than P5,000 and imprisonment of six months to one year," De la Victoria said.

He said the ordinance covers all kinds of marine turtles like Hacksbill Turtle, Leatherback, Loggerhead, Olive Ridley and Green Sea Turtle.

A study conducted by the DENR Marine Turtle Conservation Division showed that *pawikan* species decreased by 88 percent compared to records in 1951.

The study also revealed a significant decline in the population of sea turtles due to the mass harvesting of turtle eggs by local residents along coastal areas.

Traditionally, *pawikans* are captured in breeding and nesting grounds, being a cheap source of meat.

Since the inception of the ordinance in November, Bantay Dagat has yet to arrest a violator.

Ocarol does not favor the ordinance.

"It would be unfair for those who would be arrested because they ate *pawikan*," he said.

Ocarol said Bantay Dagat should instead prevent the smuggling of marine turtles straight from the source.

De la Victoria vowed to start an information campaign on marine turtles in May. He said he would start to arrest violators starting June 1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BANTAY DAGAT

IT'S TOO late for several turtles that have been slaughtered before Bantay Dagat volunteers caught up with the animals' torturers.

Wanted: Women with genuine pro-women agenda

WOMEN remain in the margin of politics for a number of reasons, among which are: The gatekeepers of political parties are men; few women have economic power to finance a successful campaign; the lack of strong women's political organizations (and alliances) which have a critical mass base for winning elections in local, district or national politics.

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

Men (mostly rich men) continue to dominate politics in the country, and many women politicians who win elections come from political families with no progressive orientation. It is no wonder that even women who are elected in the House of Representatives and the Senate have no genuine agenda for women and do not keep in touch with women's organizations regularly as their constituents.

The party-list system was devised as one way of correcting this imbalance and in effect, discrimination, against marginalized sectors such as women, youth, the elderly, workers, handicapped, etc. But look what we've got. We have almost 200 party-list candidates, many of them organized as bogus political groups and the Comelec was more than willing to register just about every one of them.

Traditional politicians, political parties and actors who have nothing between the ears are using the party-list to get to the House of Representatives through the back door.

Chances

So what are the chances of marginalized sectors against them? There will be more party-list votes this time, and getting 2 percent of that is a hard climb, much more 4 percent to get two seats. But for women, it's still worth a try. Without political power, women will continue to stay in the margin of policy-making and will still have less access to government resources.

In the last party-list elections (1998) there were at least two women's organizations that competed for party-list seats, among them, Babayi, composed of grass roots and community-based women's organizations. Babayi is part of the Democratic Socialist Women of the Philippines, a federation whose chair is my UP batch mate and friend Elizabeth Angsioco. But Babayi didn't get a seat, another women's group did. Now the progressive women's political organizations are aggressively joining the race, and this is a great time to do it after People Power II.

Candidates

Elizabeth Angsioco is second in the party-list of PDSP, and my dorm-mate in UP (Kamia Residence Hall where I was president) while Liza Largosa-Masa of Gabriela, is second in the list of Bayan Muna. Now here are two women who must absolutely sit in the House of Representatives even if we have to drag their feet in there. Etta Rosales, mother of my friend Rina, is with Akbayan, a multi-sectoral organization, and it's good to hear her fighting voice in the House.

In southern Negros Occidental, Beth Angsiaco helped organize Babae Federation and has members in the majority of the municipalities in the province and Kabankalan City. In a conference last month in Kabankalan, about 2,000 members attended, which made Isidro Zayco, mayor and candidate for vice governor, Gov. Lito Coscolluela and his candidate for governor Roy Gamboa, take notice.

Babayi has members also in Guimaras, Antique, Iloilo province, and Iloilo City. This time, Babayi has teamed up with the PDSP and aims for 4 percent of the total party-list vote so Beth can get a seat in the House.

Nikki's rival

In the third district of Quezon City, Maite Defensor is running against Nikki Coseteng. Nikki is now known as the former senator who is loyal to Erap and who was against opening the second envelope during the impeachment trial. Both have roots in Iloilo. But there are a lot of differences between them. Maite like Mike Defensor, her brother, was in the UP Student Council, has a degree in economics, and was my batch mate in Harvard in 1995 where she took up economics. I don't know if Nikki has a college degree but she moved from one school to another so I cannot tell.

Maite is young, honest, bright and idealistic, and knows her economics. She is down to earth, and like Mike, is comfortable with the *masa*. She knows that the people of her district need basic services—water, health and nutrition, employment. She also knows that legislation and policy are needed to meet these needs. In PTV 4, she spoke of our government's commitment in the United Nations to allot a percentage of our national budget for basic services. She does her homework, which is more than I can say for her opponent. She is exactly what we need—young, incorruptible, bright, hardworking. Nikki Coseteng disappointed several women's groups and women's rights advocates after they discovered that she did not push for a genuine women's agenda and is a traditional politician.

Winnie Monsod

And for senator there is Winnie Monsod, my former professor in Calculus Economics in UP, where she taught for 13 years. Imagine having to put up with us all for 13 years!

I do not write about her because I passed the course, for I doubt if she saw me in class in my shorts and T-shirt. Until now she probably does not remember my face even if I was city mayor when she was National Economic Development Authority secretary. With the current state of our economy, we need an economist in the Senate.

Winnie Monsod has a master's degree in economics from Pennsylvania University. She is not only brilliant, she can communicate well with all types of audiences, especially the *masa*. And she is so darn honest. On a trip abroad while Neda secretary, she was the only one who returned her unused per diem. The Senate will be more colorful and vibrant with Winnie Monsod around, and we will have a champion there.

Pro-choice

Some pro-choice women are disappointed though that she is quiet on the issue of family planning and birth control. But Winnie knows that our population is now about 74 million and how much our gross domestic product is. She will make an intelligent stand on the issue in time.

In Bacolod, there is a young woman lawyer who was trained by the Women's Legal Bureau Inc. in feminist legal advocacy. She is Jocelle Batapa, and I hope she wins as councilor.

These are the women who can make a difference for all women, especially the poor. If we can just put more women in politics, maybe, just maybe, our world will be a better place.

FIGHT VS COAL PLANT

Pulupandan's Don Quixote

By Carla Gomez
Pulupandan, Negros Occidental

ELLA Jacildo has led rallies against the building of a coal-fired power plant in the central Negros town of Pulupandan and hounded government officials with position papers to drive her point home.

As 'convenor of the People of Pulupandan against the Coal-Fired Power Plant, Jacildo has drawn the support of environmentalists and Negrenses fearful of Pulupandan's future. To her critics, she has become as pest.

They say she has been campaigning against a coal plant that will boost the economy of Pulupandan.

The 50-megawatt coal-fired power plant is being proposed to be built by the Central Negros Power Corp. to supply electricity to the Central Negros Electric Cooperative, as what it claims will be rates cheaper than that imposed by the National Power Corp.

But Jacildo's critics have not seen the end of her. She has taken her campaign one step higher by running for mayor of Pulupandan against incumbent Mayor Antonio Suatengco.

Her battlecry is "Halungan ang Kabuhi, Dampigan and Pulupandan (Protect life, defend Pulupandan)."

"My running for mayor," Jacildo said, "is my way to ensure that Pulupandan will be protected from further environmental degradation, and my way to uphold the right of Pulupandanons to a healthy life."

She said her chances of winning against Suatengco are good. "The yes-no war on the coal-fired power plant can be a gauge (of) protecting our victory," she said.

Jacildo claimed that the majority of the 15,000 Pulupandan voters are against the coal plant, which she said is an indication of her edge over the incumbent mayor, whose family owns the property where it will be built.

Mothers-campaigners

"I am going to be the first lady mayor of Pulupandan. Most of my campaigners are mothers. These people do not just give in to bribes—like sitting with the politicians or their leaders for coffee or drinks," she said.

"Our strongest advocate in the anti-coal campaign are the women—plain housewives, vendors, teachers, professionals and church volunteers. They are also our die-hard campaigners in our political consultants in the barangays," she added.

Jacildo has actively been in the frontline of the anti-coal plant campaign since August 1998 along with her running mate, Gil Magno Go Valenzuela, a civil engineer-contractor.

"He thinks he is Don Quixote. He believes that being poor is no hindrance (in) winning an election," Jacildo said of her running mate.

Jacildo said that as mayor she hopes to improve Pulupandan economically to ensure a healthy life for its citizenry.

"But development projects harmful to public health and the environment, such as the 50-megawatt coal-fired power project will not bring about economic progress. Such projects will only further push Pulupandan's fragile existence to extinction," she said.

"To save Pulupandan, environmental protection and sustainable economic activities must go hand in hand," she said.

Before Jacildo decided to run for mayor, she was a project evaluation officer at the Negros Occidental Provincial Planning and Development Office for nine years. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City.

"My job covered evaluation of proposed and implemented projects of the province, facilitation and supervision of development committee technical and administrative work," said the political maverick.

Faced with moneyed opponents, Jacildo said she is confident Pulupandanons will not sell their votes.

Jacildo, who will be 45 years old on Oct. 26, is single and has no boyfriend.

"With the coal plant in my life, how can I find one when no man would want to marry a Gabriela Silang or when most men of my age are either married, have number two, three . . . or *nagladlad pa*?"

Acid test

She said their campaign against the coal-fired power plant has brought national and international focus on the very small town of Pulupandan that was hardly ever known before.

"The 2001 election is the acid test that will show the true character of the Pulupandanons," she said, in reference to what is believed to be her well-financed opponent.

Jacildo is running under the provincial party Aton' Tamdon Utod Negrosanon, while Suatengco is running under the United Negros Alliance (UNA).

UNA's congressional candidate in the 4th district where Pulupandan is located is reelectionist Rep. Carlos Cojuangco, son of business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco.

Dampigan ang
NO TO COAL POWER

PHOTO COURTESY OF JACILDO

JACILDO: 'No man would want to marry a Gabriela Silang . . .'

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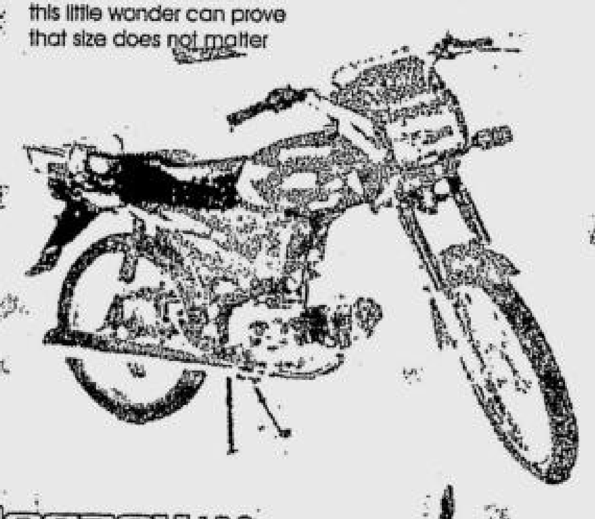

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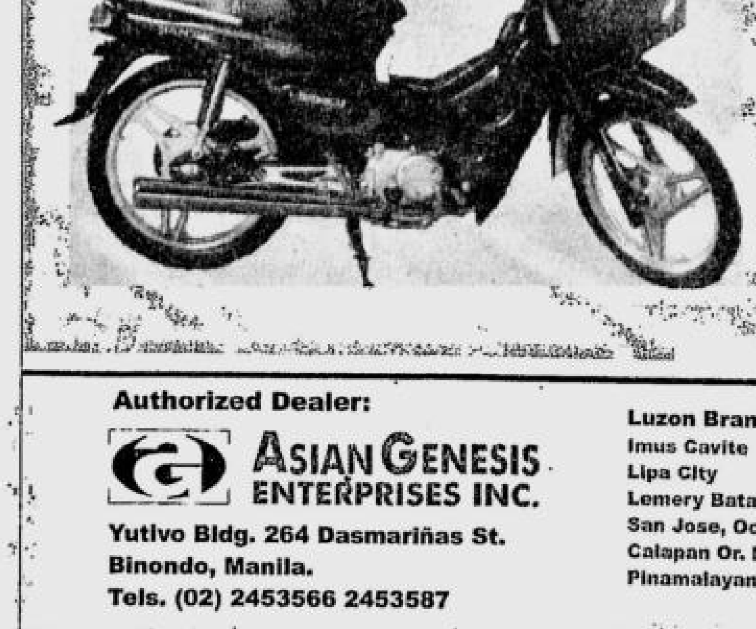

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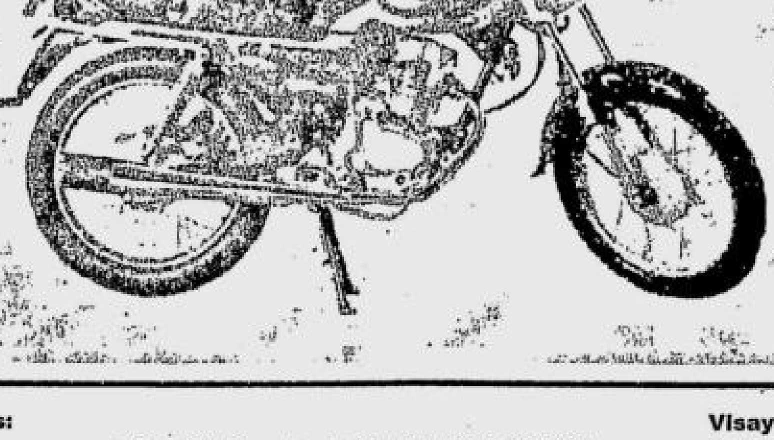

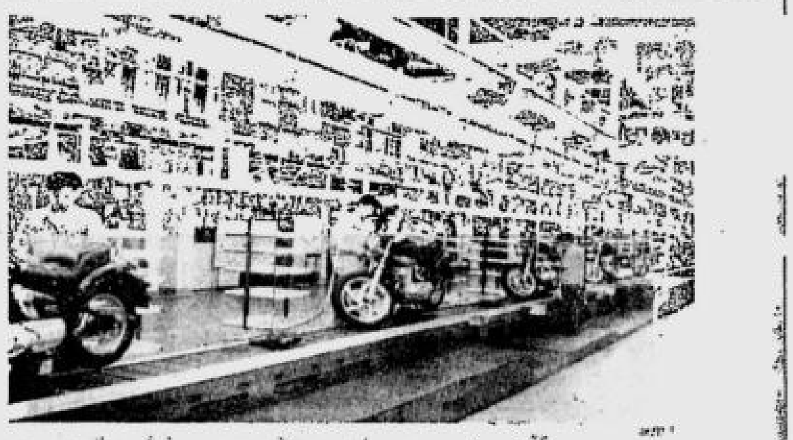

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AFP, PNP on nationwide red alert

(From page A1)

addressed the Estrada crowd at the Edsa Shrine Thursday night and called for sobriety.

He said a military intervention would not help the situation.

The top military officials are not taking chances.

Villanueva disclosed that "counter-intelligence agents are going around, and looking at things and persons."

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr., a brother of staunch Estrada supporter Sen. Miriam Defensor- Santiago, is one of those being monitored by intelligence agents, according to sources in the military.

Sources said the loyalty of Defensor had been suspect although he joined the withdrawal of support from Estrada in January.

"Defensor was the odd man out," a source recalled the Air Force chief's agreeing to withdraw support from Estrada.

"Up to the last moment, he was advocating a snap election," the source said.

At the height of People Power II, Estrada offered a snap election to defuse the clamor for his resignation. The then opposition, including Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, rejected the offer.

Defensor was in a meeting when sought for comment.

In an interview over dzRH, Villanueva said the military was checking reports that certain quarters were offering sums of money to officers and soldiers to help re-install Estrada.

"Definitely, no one will admit," said Villanueva, who also noted that he was in touch with not only service and area commanders but also with commanders down to the battalion level and "specially the combat troops."

"Definitely we have counter-measures. And we have been meeting very closely with chief personalities," the AFP chief of staff said.

As the government steps up its counter-intelligence operations, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr., former chief of the PNP and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), denied having met with the Marine commandant, Brig. Gen. Librado Ladia.

"I haven't seen or met Ladia or any military officer since I stepped down as PNP chief," said Lacson, now an opposition senatorial candidate.

There were text messages going around that its commandant, Ladia, met Lacson Thursday night.

In a statement, the Philippine Marine Corps also denied reports that "some quarters are courting its officers and men in a plot to destabilize the present administration."

The statement said Ladia "gave specific instructions to his officers and men, both assigned in the field and those assigned in Metro Manila, to remain united and loyal to the chain of command and to support the military and national leadership" under President Macapagal.

Lacson also said there was no truth to reports that Estrada was courting the military to join in ousting Ms Macapagal.

Surveillance expected

Former Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, spokesperson of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), said the surveillance of military officers whose loyalties are suspect "is to be expected."

If officers were indeed being monitored, they would include members of Class 1971 of the Philippine Military Academy such as Lacson and reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan, according to Maligalig.

He expressed confidence that the "mistah (camaraderie)" mentality among PMA classmates would not prevail.

He was referring to PMA Class 1971, which has 30 members with the rank of general in both the AFP and PNP.

Coup rumors

In the Visayas, military officials downplayed rumors of an impending coup, saying they remain loyal to the Macapagal administration.

Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco, Philippine Navy chief, assured the public that a coup would not happen despite calls of Estrada's supporters for People Power III.

"The whole Navy remains supportive and loyal to the (Macapagal) administration. There's no truth to some reports alleging that some personnel of the Navy, including the Marines, are sympathetic to the Erap loyalists in Edsa," Hingco told reporters yesterday during his first visit to Camp Lapu-Lapu, the Viscom headquarters.

Hingco was referring to television reports that there were negotiations between Estrada's group and some Marine officials for the latter to withdraw support from President Macapagal.

Maj. Gen. Julius Javier, Viscom chief, supported Hingco's statement.

"The personnel of the Visayas Command are professional soldiers and will remain loyal to the present administration," he said.

For his part, Villanueva stressed that the situation today was different from People Power II.

"There have been different circumstances behind it (People Power II)," the armed forces chief said. "I am sure the AFP will stand united."

Guardians

Maligalig disclosed that members of the Guardian, a group of former and active military men affiliated with RAM, went to the Edsa Shrine and waved Guardian and RAM flags and banners.

He said RAM had ordered the pull-out of the Guardians from the shrine. "This group of Guardians, numbering about 20, were recalled and the banners taken away from them at Edsa by our people," Maligalig said.

Maligalig said the Guardian members were probably encouraged to go to Edsa because Honasan was supporting the protest.

Honasan has reportedly fallen out of grace from RAM because of his staunch support for Estrada.

Mendoza, the PNP chief, said he had ordered the policemen to exercise "maximum tolerance" in dealing with the supporters of Estrada, whom Chief Insp. Noli Romana, acting PNP spokesman, described as "unruly."

Romana vowed to protect journalists covering the event from the unruly supporters who were armed with knives, stones and bows and arrows. *(Story on Page A1.)*

He disclosed that they had deployed 500 PNP personnel to keep the 8,000-strong protesters in line.

He said the police had already coordinated with Honasan.

"Senator Honasan assured us that the crowd would not become violent," Romana said.

In a statement, Mendoza appealed to the protesters to "remain calm and orderly."

"While we maintain a policy of maximum tolerance in dealing with the supporters of the deposed President, the PNP can only allow peaceful and orderly protest actions. Anything beyond this deserves appropriate police response," Mendoza said. ***With reports from Dave Veridiano in Manila; Ma. Diosa Labiste and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Net 25: 'Biased but not seditious'

(From page A1)

chief of staff Renato Corona conceded that there was nothing "seditious" in the coverage.

"*Pero nakakainis* (But it's annoying)," he said yesterday.

TV station NET 25 and its partner radio station dzEC have been devoting non-stop coverage to the loyalist rallies since Wednesday.

"We noticed that Net 25 has a bias in its coverage," said Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"It's even journalistically unethical. There was inaccurate coverage. They are continuously playing the peak of the Edsa rallies," he said.

But NET 25 news director Nel Santiago said they decided to give full coverage to the so-called "Edsa III" because "it is a legitimate news story, a legitimate unfolding news event."

According to Santiago, there is a live feed of dzEC broadcasts over the footage taken of the Edsa rallies at various points of the day.

The video footage is late by only a few minutes, he said.

"There was no inaccurate reporting. We are just airing what is happening at Edsa. The viewers can see that for themselves," he said.

Santiago said the inaccuracy had been provided by certain government officials who downplayed the number of protesters at the rallies.

Tiglao said Thursday that the number ranged from 4,000 to 10,000.

But yesterday, he admitted that the number had been growing, and that this might have been in reaction to the coverage of Estrada's arrest on Wednesday.

While the Estrada camp claimed that the protesters at Edsa reached more than half a million on Thursday night, Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, pegged the number at only 60,000.

NET 25 and dzEC are owned and operated by the Eagle Broadcasting Corp., a commercial media network whose board of directors comprises mostly members of the Iglesia ni Cristo.

Its chair is former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas, who was kicked out of the Estrada Cabinet supposedly for not yielding to pressure for him to lay off cases involving the then President's friends.

'Your fault'

JV Ejercito, son of the ex-president by former starlet Guia Gomez, and opposition senatorial candidate Ricardo Puno said the media were also to blame for the hostile treatment they were getting from the Estrada loyalists.

In a news conference yesterday in Greenhills, the two men said they had asked the loyalists massed at Edsa not to hurt reporters and photographers arriving at the site.

Still, Ejercito said, reporters should not complain.

Speaking in Taglish, he said: "If you really want to cover something, you can do so. Others brave a war just to cover it, what more this gathering where the people are unarmed?

"I've been asking them not to hurt our friends from the media even if I have a grudge against you."

"*Kagagawan niyo rin eh* (It's also your fault)," he added, accusing the media of biased reporting.

Puno, a former ABS-CBN official and talk show host who served as Estrada's press secretary, said it was to the interest of the loyalists not to harass the media, so they would get "better coverage."

But he unburdened himself of his sentiments against CNN and GMA-7.

"(Friday) morning, CNN reported only 30,000 people. And there's this Raffy Tima (a GMA-7 reporter), who also said 30,000. (That figure) is either too low or dated," said Puno, who is part of the senatorial ticket of the Estrada-backed Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa.

He said such an estimate was "obviously conservative."

"If they can't give the correct number, (they should) show the pictures because pictures don't lie," he added.

'Legitimate'

No other TV or radio station had been devoting as much coverage to the loyalist rallies.

According to dzEC commentator Totoy Talastas, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) had been asked to monitor the radio station's broadcasts.

But he said there was nothing wrong in what dzEC had been doing. "This is a legitimate and valid use of the freedom of the press," he said in Filipino.

Tiglao, however, ruled out an investigation by the NTC of Net 25 or dzEC.

"We don't plan to do that at all," he said. "That would be uncalled for."

Talastas pointed out that the media networks that gave extensive coverage to the "Estrada resign" movement had not gotten the same criticism as dzEC was getting now.

Santiago said the surprising thing was how radio and TV stations that gave full coverage to "People Power II" had been ignoring the "Edsa III" rallies, or downplaying their size.

He said this was what had angered the Estrada loyalists and led to accusations of "biased" reporting by other radio and TV stations.

In contrast, he said, foreign media networks had given space and time to the Edsa rallies.

Santiago took the opportunity to correct an earlier report that NET 25 had previously been airing only Christian programs.

He said that it was a commercial station, and that religious programs were limited to an hour a week.

Sin laments desecration of Edsa Shrine

(From page A1)

After a Mass celebrated by Sin yesterday afternoon, President Macapagal-Arroyo went to meet with El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde in Makati, according to Palace sources.

The INQUIRER could not confirm that the meeting, which was not on her official schedule, took place.

The President, according to the sources, cancelled a scheduled interview with regional business leaders to meet with the spiritual adviser of her jailed predecessor.

Velarde has given no directive to El Shaddai members, who number several million here and abroad, to attend the pro-Estrada rally on Edsa.

Sin said the Estrada loyalists had "profaned a house of prayer" by taking down a church flag and replacing it with a pro-Estrada banner, piling garbage on a historical marker and plastering posters on the statue of Our Lady of Peace atop the shrine.

"The evil is trying to stage a comeback and the good must fight on," Dizon, spokesperson of the Estrada Resign Movement, said during a convention of groups that participated in People Power I and II.

In separate statements, Sin and Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Iloilo criticized Estrada's followers for their "foul language," "obscene songs" and "unruly behavior."

Sin said the protesters placed loudspeakers in front of the shrine's chapel, disrupting church ceremonies, and sang "obscene songs within the church grounds . . . offending our Catholic sensibilities."

Edict

As Archbishop of Manila, Sin has the right to order the temporary closure of the shrine, said Dizon, who attended the convention at the University of the Philippines Chapel.

The priest sees the edict as the best solution to drive away Estrada's supporters, who have vowed to stay on until the jailed former president is released and Ms Macapagal is forced to resign.

The protesters, according to Dizon, have every right to express their opinion, but no right to desecrate Church property.

"They should leave the shrine and just stay in the streets for as long as they want," said Dizon.

Prayers for Gloria

The President yesterday sought refuge in prayers personally offered for her by Sin.

She attended a special Mass commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Laity of Manila. Sin officiated at the Mass at the Archbishop's Palace in Mandaluyong.

Afterwards, she went to meet with Velarde, the Palace sources said.

During the Mass, Sin and the officers of the Council of the Laity headed by Dr. Ricardo Ledesma, "prayed over" the President, whose 100-day administration is facing its biggest trial so far.

Kneeling before the congregation and wearing a light green suit, Ms Macapagal was blessed by the Cardinal and the CLM members who all raised their right hands while they prayed.

"Protect our President, Lord, from all harm and from the viciousness of detractors as well as from the deceptive flattery of sycophants and opportunists," they prayed.

"Inoculate her from hubris, that arrogance of power and fame which hastened the fall of the foolish," read part of the prayer.

In his homily, Sin advised the President and the congregation "not to give up on truth and justice."

"Do not give up (even) when everybody seems to have given up," Sin said.

The President was alone in her pew as she kneeled to pray for five minutes after receiving Communion. Several times, she kneaded her forehead with her left hand while in prayer.

The seat for her husband, Mike Arroyo, and four other seats marked "reserved" were all empty beside her.

Call for action

At the convention in UP, Dan Songco of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II suggested that spiritual leaders should call for national action in response to the pro-Estrada protest.

Jose Luis Alcuaz, spokesperson of the Silent Protest Movement, said the Estrada rally would not last since the former president and his allies could not sustain its funding.

While recognizing the legitimate concerns of the poor at Edsa, militant groups criticized the protesters for their "violent tendencies."

"We are concerned about the potential violence that might ensue, as manifested by the violent tendencies of the rallyists against the police and the media," Kompil said.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has reportedly asked protesters to march to Camp Crame and forcibly free Estrada.

"We are concerned about the way pro-Erap politicians are agitating their constituents and their seeming (moves) to incite violence," Kompil said.

With reports from AFP and Reuters

Pulse Survey: 8-5 for PPC; Macapagal ratings plunge

(From page A1)

among the Ilonggo voters.

De Castro was 19.8 percentage points ahead of his nearest rival, PPC's Juan Flavier who got 44.7 percent voting for him and 98 percent awareness. Flavier was ranked 2-6, meaning that at best he would land in No. 2 and at worst in the 6th slot.

From Flavier, it's PPC down to the 9th slot.

Ranked 2-9 were Sergio Osmena III (96 aware, 42.5 voting for); Drilon (97, 42); Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan (93, 41) and Joker Arroyo (96, 40.2).

Ranked 3-9 were Ralph Recto (91 aware, 39.9 voting for); Ramon Magsaysay Jr. (96 aware, 39.3 voting for) and Manuel Villar (95, 38.8).

Gregorio Honasan (with 98 aware and 33.3 voting for) was ranked 10-16 along with his fellow Puwersa candidates Orlando Mercado (94, 32.7) and Juan Ponce Enrile (98, 32.2).

Edgardo Angara, Puwersa ng Masa-Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino leader, rounded up the 13th slot with 96 percent aware and 31.1 percent voting for.

Vying for last 4 slots

Angara was, however, ranked 10-17 with three other Puwersa candidates who netted percentage voting of 31 or lower. They are Panfilo Lacson (95, 31); Ricardo Puno (91, 30.7) and Miriam Defensor-Santiago (98, 29.7).

Tabunda said these candidates are the ones vying for the last four slots in the race.

Estrada's wife Loi was ranked 13-18 with 97 percent awareness and 27 percent voting for.

The survey of senatorial preferences, commissioned by GMA 7, covered 1,800 registered voters chosen nationwide. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points. Three hundred respondents were taken from six regional groupings in the country.

The GMA-Pulse Asia survey also found out that President Macapagal enjoys a high electoral endorsement rate of +12 while her ousted predecessor Joseph Estrada has a -10 endorsement rate.

Significant erosion

But her net approval rating suffered a "significant erosion," in the words of Miranda.

Net approval is the percentage of those who approved of her performance minus the percentage of those who disapproved.

In March, 63 percent of the respondents approved of the performance of the President; 21 percent were undecided and 15 percent disapproved.

This month, the percentage of those who approved declined to 47 percent, with 28 percent undecided and 25 percent disapproved.

Miranda attributed the decline in Ms Macapagal's performance ratings to her administration's decision to ban the movie, "Live Show," the secret pact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and controversies arising from some of her unpopular Cabinet appointments.

The effect of the ban on "Live Show" was pronounced in the ABC classes, which he had described as "command vote" for the administration candidates.

For this upper class cluster, Ms Macapagal's net approval rating was +54 in March which slipped to 27 percent this month.

In March, 68 percent approved of her performance; 18 percent were undecided and 14 percent disapproved. It was 46 percent approved, 35 percent undecided and 19 percent disapproved in April.

Miranda said the survey showed that a lot of the upper classes were "turned off" by the government decision to prohibit the commercial exhibition of "Live Show."

Class D gave Ms Macapagal a net approval rating of +52 in March and +24 in April. Class E, which Miranda described as die-hard Estrada, gave her a net approval rating of +36 in March and +15 in April.

Edsa rallies

Miranda said the protest rallies being held by Estrada supporters at the Edsa Shrine could affect the eventual results of the May 14 elections "either way." But he said the PPC was "coasting to victory" since the Supreme Court upheld the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency.

According to Miranda, the survey showed that 20 percent of the voters said there was a possibility they might change their preferences come May 14.

Sympathy votes

Miranda said that the former first lady could become the 13th winner if she gets "sympathy votes" for the arrest of Estrada. If there are sympathy votes, Tabunda said, Honasan, Enrile, Santiago and Lacson are likely to become beneficiaries on account of the fact that they are "very closely identified" with Estrada.

The 18th to 21st slots were occupied by PPC candidates Ernesto Herrera (93 aware, 24.9 voting for and ranked 17-20); Wigberto Tañada (85, 23, 18-21 ranking); Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan (88, 22.6, 18-21 ranking) and Solita Monsod (79, 19.2 and 19-21 ranking).

The last PPC candidate, Liwayway Vinzons Chato, was in the 24th slot with 68 percent aware, 10.8 percent voting for and ranked 23-26.

Before her were Perfecto Yasay Jr. (77 aware, 15 voting for and 22 ranking), and Reuben Canoy (39, 10.9, 23-26 ranking).

Puwersa's Santanina Rasul and Jamby Madrigal were closer to the bottom with ranking of 23-26 with low percentage voting.

- Ten lesser-known candidates completed the list of official candidates taken from the Commission on Elections.

Boost factors

Miranda said the figures are in favor of the administration, with previous figures showing a "pattern" of 7-6 and 8-5 in favor of the PPC. He said the Supreme Court ruling on the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency and the dismissal of Estrada's legal challenges were factors which boosted the chances of the PPC candidates.

"So contextwise, if something had not developed that could possibly disturb the equilibrium already working well for the administration, it will be fairly easy to say that at the very least the Macapagal administration would have 8 or 9 out of the 13 slots," Miranda said.

Later he became more categorical. "It's a high-risk proposition to arrest Erap as I was saying one-and-a-half months before. The process was already delivering (for the PPC). Now they will be nervous again."

Miranda said it's best for Malacañang to "deal with what is happening in Edsa extremely well and fast."

Pattern could change

Miranda said he would not put the credibility of his polling firm on the line by speculating on whether the alleged Edsa III would affect the PPC or PnM-LDP.

"I'm not going to stake (our name) except to say that if I had been in charge of Malacañang strategizing, in all probability certain things would not have allowed to create some possibility of a joker being put up in our political situation now," Miranda said.

Miranda added: "The PPC is coasting towards victory in May, you have a pattern. But with the new factor activated, you now have to wait a little while to know if this pattern will change and towards what direction because theoretically, you could really have an effect where the support for PPC would be even more if people are so impressed with the decisiveness as it were of the administration."

But he said there is also a probability that the Edsa rallies would boost the PnM-LDP chances.

Miranda noted that as much as 20 percent of the respondents in Luzon said there is a possibility they will change their preferences between the time the survey was taken and May 14.

The survey showed 19 percent of the respondents nationwide said there was a "very big/big" possibility.

ABC for PPC

Miranda said the upper ABC classes are already "pledged," a "command vote" for the PPC. He said these upper classes are delivering as much as 60 percent of their votes for the PPC.

In contrast, Class E is die-hard PnM. Miranda said Class D was slowly turning in favor of the PPC but the arrest of Estrada could possibly stop this turnaround.

Tabunda said the PPC is perceived to be a group "fighting anomalies in government" while Puwersa is perceived to be "pro-poor."

One thing that would probably work for the PPC is Ms Macapagal's credibility in endorsing candidates.

The survey found that 37 percent would vote for her candidates, 38 percent will not be affected and 25 will vote against, giving her a margin (percentage vote minus percentage vote against) of +12.

The only other positive endorser was the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which got 32 percent will vote for, 40 percent will not be affected, 28 percent will vote against and +4 margin.

The Iglesia ni Cristo has the most negative endorsement capacity at -29 margin, from 16 percent will vote for, 40 percent will not be affected and 45 will vote against.

Estrada has a -10 margin, out of 28 who will vote for, 34 will not be affected and 38 percent will vote against.

Cardinal Sin has -13 margin, former President Cory Aquino has -8, and the Couples for Christ, -4.

Estrada factor

Tabunda said the "most controversial" findings was that the public are divided when asked if the May 14 elections would mean support or non-support for Estrada.

When asked if they thought support or non-support for Estrada is the most important electoral issue, 31 percent agreed, 35 percent were undecided and 34 percent disagreed.

Tabunda said it showed that voters were "split three-ways" on that issue and that means Estrada would remain a factor in the elections.

"People cannot make up their mind (about Estrada)," Tabunda said.

Tabunda said there was "resistance" when respondents were asked to chose among the candidates as either pro-administration or opposition.

A total of 23 percent are going for the pro-administration candidates while 17 percent are going for the opposition.

But a bigger 59 percent said they would vote for the candidates they like regardless of their political allegiance.

Miranda said Pulse would conduct its next survey on May 7, a week before the elections. He said the results by then would show whether the arrest of Estrada and the Edsa rally would affect the polls.

Miranda and Tabunda presented the results of the survey in a briefing at the GMA Network Center yesterday afternoon. GMA 7 and the Philippine Daily Inquirer have teamed up for the coverage of the May 14 elections.

Jail good for Estrada's health

(From page A1)

"He was appealing to the police not to hurt his supporters," he said of their conversation.

Saying that Estrada, who was arrested Wednesday, appeared to be adjusting to life behind bars and was sleeping soundly, Lacson even made an off-color joke to emphasize his point.

"He seems comfortable. He is in high spirits. In fact, he has already had his first wet dream since he got here," Lacson said in jest.

"He seems to have adjusted well," he said.

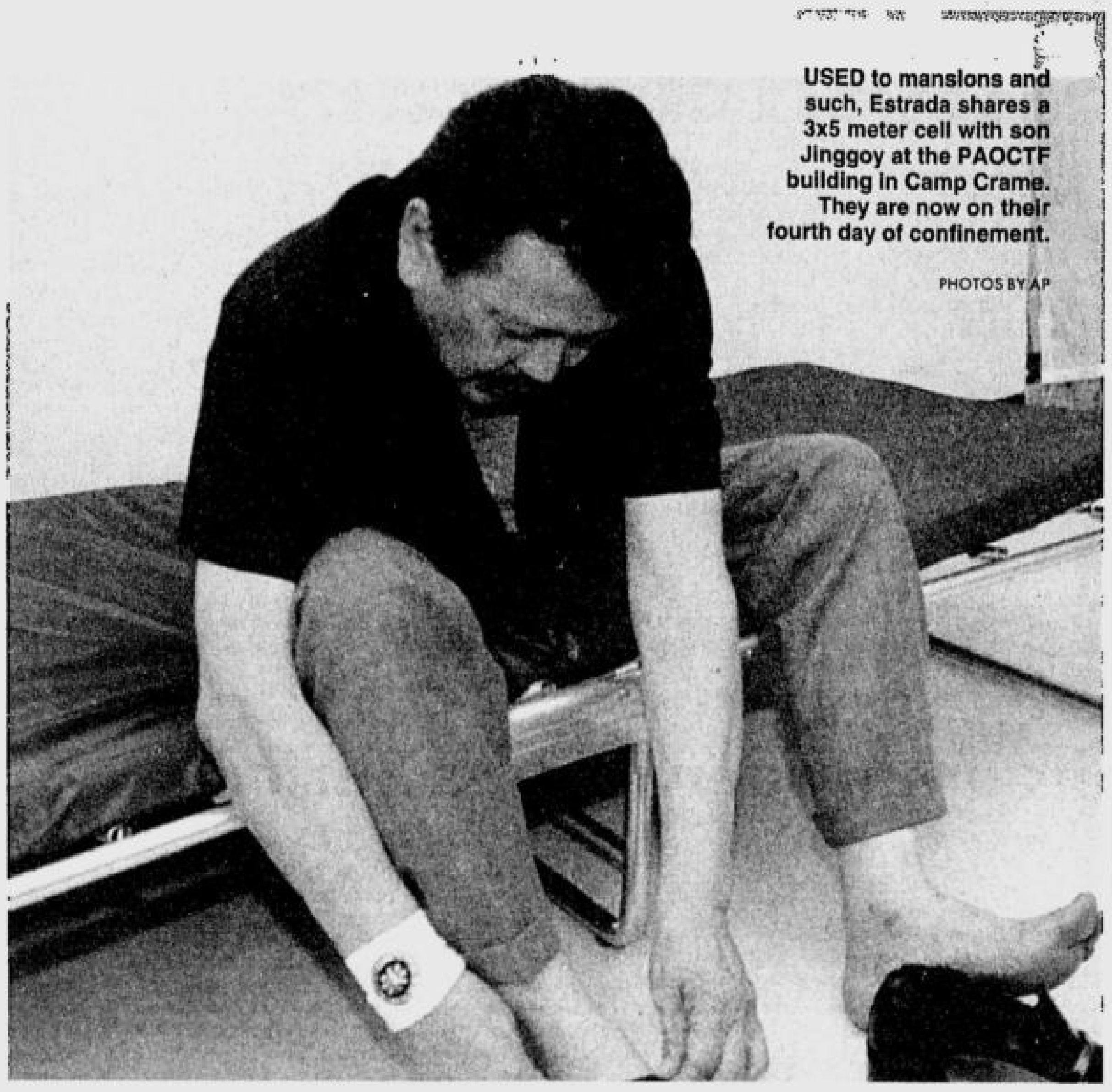
It was both a "sad and happy" reunion between the former president and his top cop, Lacson admitted.

"I am sad because he is now a prisoner, a detainee. But I am happy because his blood pressure has gone down since he. got here," Lacson said.

Mercado, however, said that Estrada was feeling the effects of the "psychological pressure" of detention.

"*Kasi liliit ang mundo mo. Hindi ka makaalis* (Your world shrinks. You can't leave). Even if he is locked up inside the most beautiful hotel suite in the world, it's still a prison," Mercado said.

"There's psychological pressure. He told me *ni sa panaginip, hindi niya inaasahan ito* (that he never expected this—not even in his nightmares)."



USED to mansions and such, Estrada shares a 3x5 meter cell with son Jinggoy at the PAOCTF building in Camp Crame. They are now on their fourth day of confinement.

PHOTOS BY AP

'Good old days'

Yesterday was Lacson's first time to set foot in the PAOCTF building since he stepped down as its chief in January.

Estrada created the PAOCTF in 1998 to fight kidnapping, drug trafficking, terrorism and other organized crime rings, and assigned Lacson to head the agency.

Then President Estrada cut the ribbon and inaugurated the PAOCTF building and jail in July 1998.

Lacson said that he and Estrada talked about the "good old days" for more than three hours. Lacson was at the jail from 9:50 a.m. to around 1:30 p.m.

He said the former president told him that he was "willing to face the (plunder) charges and he will fight it out."

Mercado, an adopted candidate of the Puwersa ng Masa, said Estrada expressed concern about the aborted provincial sorties of the senatorial candidates.

"He told me to continue our pro-poor campaign, and I assured him we are doing just that and that the response of the public is good," Mercado said.

Very simple life

The former Cabinet member tried to reassure Estrada that imprisonment has its advantages, citing his own experiences as a prisoner for nine and half months under martial law.

Mercado said the arrested former leader would come out rested, refreshed, stronger and healthier—physically, mentally and emotionally—because he could exercise more and do away with alcohol and such fatty and high-cholesterol dishes as lechon.

Estrada also agreed that he would do more thinking, reading, writing and exercising while in jail.

"I bet you, he will be healthier because he'll be fed simple food and will lead a very simple life," Mercado told the INQUIRER after emerging from the PAOCTF jail where the deposed president is detained.

The former defense chief shared with Estrada his own experience. "I told him you will be healthier when you leave this place," Mercado said. "I was healthier and stronger when I got out of jail."

He said he advised Estrada to get a lot of rest. "He has so much time to sleep now," he said.

In fact, Mercado said, Estrada is luckier than he was because the accused former president has a cell all to himself.

"I shared my cell with Homobono Adaza. Was that not a cruel and an unusual punishment?" Mercado said, poking fun at his talkative rival for a Senate seat.

Breach of security

Asked if he favored Estrada's transfer to the PNP-Special Action Forces Training and Seminar Center in Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Lacson said the travel to and from the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City would be taxing for Estrada and his escorts.

Lacson said Estrada was "safe" and heavily guarded at the PAOCTF jail.

But police officials ordered an investigation of a breach of security in the detention cell after a civilian agent of the PAOCTF took clandestine video footage and photos of the former president inside his cell.

The pictures showed Estrada lying on his folding bed.

The civilian agent reportedly approached several reporters and photographers, particularly the foreign press, to sell his exclusive material.

The Associated Press paid an undisclosed contributor's fee for the photos, which were picked up by television and print. *With a report from Mark Isaiah David*

Watch for the TV Special

"Earth Day 2001: Clean Energy Campaign"

Sundays at Malacañang Gardens

with Her Excellency *President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo* and the *First Family* organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) headed by *Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez*

earth day network

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Thanks Pres. GMA & Sec. H.T. ALVAREZ for the passage of Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Protected Area Law & other PA Bills.
Let's Have a Meaningful Earthday 2001!
Tour of the Fireflies
FUELLED BY COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS
ppy Birthday

"Dear Secretary Alvarez,

The very successful Earth Day celebrations in Malacañan reflected a refreshing and most welcome renewal of the Philippine Government's dedication to address the environmental concerns of the Philippine society. The presence of the President herself sent an important signal about the level of importance that the Arroyo administration adhere to these issues.

Yours sincerely,

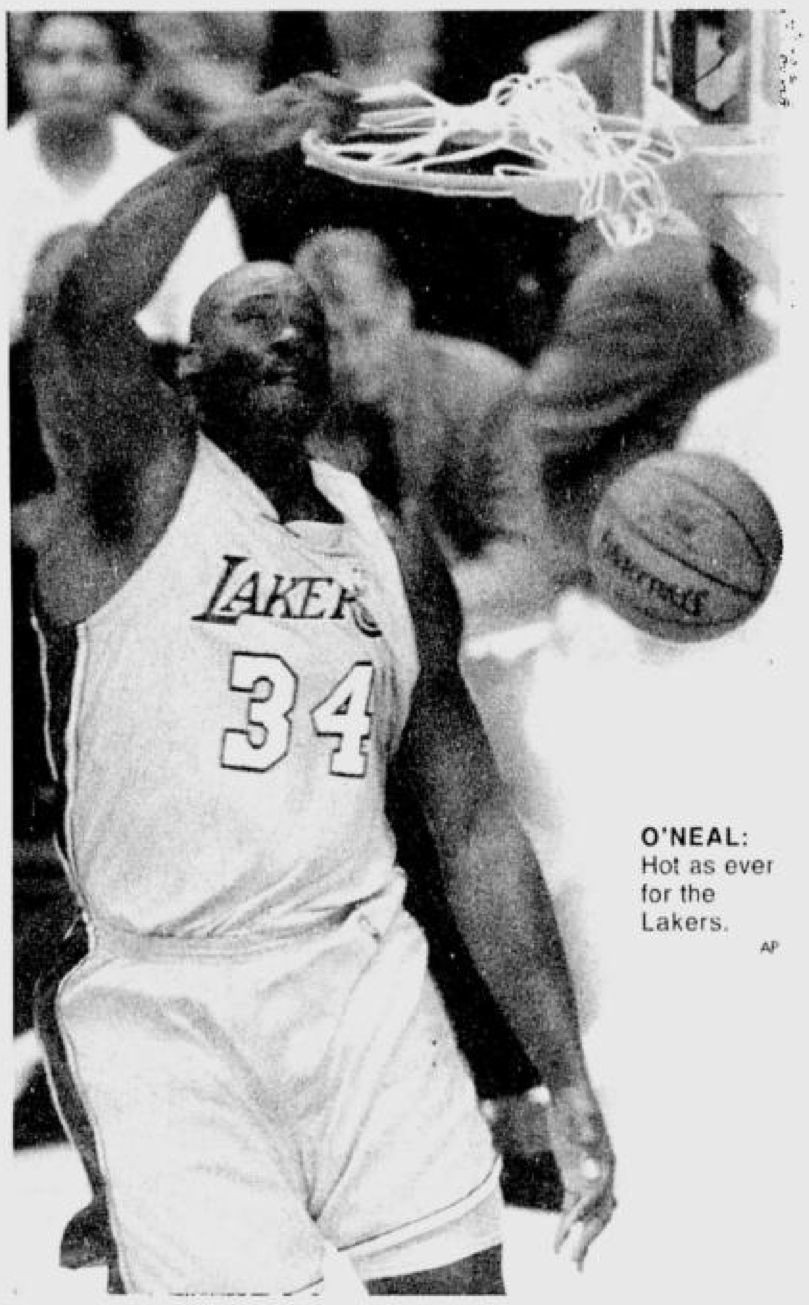
NICKLAS SVENNINGSEN
for UNEP Director KLAUS TOEPFER"

Saturday, April 28, 6:00 - 7:00 PM, with a replay on Sunday, April 29 - 11:00 pm to 12:00 MN over Channel 9, in cooperation with OPS-PIA, PAGCOR, PCSO, RPN-9 and PTV-4.

Join the

Earth Day 2001 Telethon

on Monday, April 30, 9:00 AM to 12:NN, RPN-9, to raise awareness on our damaged ecosystems and in discussing solutions that can be undertaken by a public-private partnership through a Civil Society action network linked with the DENR.



O'NEAL: Hot as ever for the Lakers.

AP

Raptors, Lakers smother rivals

NEW YORK—Vince Carter finally became a playoff performer Thursday night, scoring 22 points as the Toronto Raptors beat the New York Knicks, 94-74, for the first playoff victory in franchise history.

In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal had 32 points, 12 rebounds and five assists as the Los Angeles Lakers moved out to a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series. The Lakers won over the Blazers, 106-88.

Kobe Bryant added 25 points and seven assists, and Rick Fox had 19 points, eight rebounds, six assists and five steals for the Lakers.

Carter, coming off a poor performance in Game 1 that dropped his career postseason record to 0-4, went on an offensive tear in the second half to help the Raptors turn it into a rout.

Tied 1-1, the best-of-five first-round series resumes Sunday at Toronto.

Alvin Williams tied his career high with 23 points for the Raptors. Chris Childs had seven assists before leaving with a pulled hamstring late in the third quarter as the Raptors were using a 31-15 run to pull away.

Kurt Thomas led the Knicks with 23 points and 12 rebounds. Marcus Camby, playing three days after his mother and two sisters were held hostage at their home in Connecticut, had just two points and two rebounds in 31 minutes. Allan Houston added 14 points.

Game 3 in the best-of-five series is Sunday in Portland.

Scottie Pippen led Portland with 21 points, eight rebounds and four steals. Rasheed Wallace added 17 points and Steve Smith scored 16.

Portland's Dale Davis was called for a flagrant foul and ejected for elbowing Robert Horry. Wallace was assessed two technicals, calling for automatic ejection, and Pippen and Damon Stoudamire each drew technicals.

AP

Fr. Martin Cup: Ateneo vs JRC

THE COUNTRY'S biggest inter-school invitational basketball tournament—the 7th Fr. Martin Cup—reels off today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, with Rev. Fr. James Reuter, S.J., as guest of honor.

Father Reuter will pay tribute to the late Fr. Edgar A. Martin, S.J., former Ateneo athletic moderator and Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general for 11 consecutive years, during the 2 p.m. opening ceremony.

Three games will usher in the cagefest sanctioned by the BAP led by Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II and jointly sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and SMART-Piltel.

Defending senior champion Ateneo faces José Rizal in the first game at 3 o'clock. The other matches pit Tiong Lian titleist Xavier School against San Beda B's junior team at 4:30 and St. Benilde's senior bets against Angelicum at 6.

A total of 45 teams—20 seniors, 18 juniors and seven women—will see action.

Slashers defeat Blades

THE NEGROS Slashers cut down star-laden LBC Blades, 101-94, to take the first victory of the MBA Cebuana-Lhuillier Friendship Games before a jam-packed crowd at the New Cebu City Coliseum yesterday. Negros, last year's Southern Conference champion and runner-up in the controversy-marred National Finals, had an early jump on the Blades, the result of the merger between the Manila Metrostars and the Batangas Blades.

GMA makes Coo a millionaire

By June Navarro

BONG Coo, the country's pride in international women's bowling, will be the prime beneficiary of Republic Act 9064, a law granting huge cash incentives to athletes who won medals in the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games and Southeast Asian Games.

Going by the number of her achievements, Coo stands to receive at least P5 million from the government.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved Republic Act 9064 or the "Sports Benefits and Incentives Act" on April 5, paving the way for Coo and a host of sporting luminaries to earn a windfall for their exploits.

Coo, a Hall-of-Famer in international bowling, scooped a total of five gold medals and two silvers in the 1978 Bangkok and 1986 Seoul Asian Games.

She also hauled three gold medals and two silvers in the World FIQ, an international bowling event held every four years.

"I will use the incentive as seed money for the establishment of a sports foundation, which will boost sports development in the country," said the 52-year-old Coo. "It's time to give back all the blessings that I received during my career."

She also bared plans of putting up a school specifically focused on the development of women bowlers.

Also expected to benefit from the windfall is boxer Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco, who won a silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. He is expected to receive P1 million.

For future individual event winners, an Olympic gold medal is worth P5 million, quadrennial world championship events P2.5 million, Asian Games P1 million and SEA Games P100,000.

An Olympic silver will fetch P2.5 million, quadrennial world championship events P1 million, Asian Games P500,000 and SEAG P50,000.

Alpuerto marches to Head-Penn final

TOP seed Vida Lina Alpuerto of Laguna marched into the girls' 18-under final following a 6-1, 6-2 victory over fourth seed Tracy Bautista in the Head-Penn Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis center.

Alpuerto, a member of the RP-Fed Cup team, will face second pick Charise Godoy of Tangub City, who scored a 7-5, 6-3 win over third seed Julie Ann Cadiente.

Earlier, No. 1 Bien Zoleta of Lucena downed No. 4 Melissa Orteza, 6-3, 6-3, to advance in the girls' 14-under finals against second seed Ivy de Castro of Miriam College, who posted a 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over third seed Katherine Flores of Albay.

De Castro also reached the 16-under semifinal round via a 7-6 (1), 6-1 win over Vanessa Gutierrez. Other winners were No. 1 Berry Sepulveda, No. 4 Sherry Rose Ong and Bien Zoleta.

Motocross legend graces race in Palawan

MOTOCROSS legend Butch Chase will make a rare appearance when the National Motocross Super Series 2001: A Race of Yamaha makes its first out-of-town in Puerto Princesa today.

Chase, considered as the greatest motocross rider that the country has ever produced, has been invited as one of the special guests in the one-day event organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and supported by MAD (Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga) and Kids Foundation.

Joining Chase will be newly elected Asian Union of Motorcyliste president Macky Carapiet, actor-sportsman Richard Gomez of MAD and top local government officials.

"It will be a great experience for old and new riders to personally see Butch again. He is one of the biggest stars of motocross in the not-so-distant past," said Carapiet, who will plane in for Puerto Princesa City on Thursday.

Formula 1 in Spain

THE FORMULA One teams head toward Spain for the fifth round of the Championship and the second in Europe. Although the BMW Williams F1 Team knows it is expected to do well on the strength of the Imola result, it also realizes just how difficult the race will be.

Jordan revisited

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHAT kind of a basketball player Michael Jordan was before he retired in 1998?

He was not only good, or better than Erving, Jabbar, Magic or Bird combined. He was the best.

Let's start from the very beginning.

In 1982, he hit that title-clinching baseline jump shot in the dying seconds of the NCAA final game against Georgetown. He was only a freshman then. By his junior year, he was the nation's Player of the Year. His legend has begun.

By the quirks of fate, both the Houston Rockets and Portland Trail Blazers ignored Jordan in the 1984 draft. And, would you believe, the Chicago Bulls, too—initially, that is?

Chicago had its sights set on a big man, but the 7-foot-1 Hakeem Olajuwon would be snared by Houston, and the 7-foot-1 Sam Bowie by the second-picking Portland. The Bulls had to settle for Jordan, a 6-foot-6 shooting guard.

The rest, as we love to say, is basketball history.

In his 13 seasons with Chicago, Jordan earned Rookie of the Year honors, 5 MVP awards and 6 NBA crowns. He set the record for most seasons in league scoring (10) and highest scoring average in NBA history (31.5). In doing all that, he became sports' biggest star since Ali.

Jordan made one of his most memorable performances in the NBA, when he powered Chicago to a first playoffs stint in 1986. In a first-round game against Boston, he fired an NBA playoff record 63 points in a 135-131 double overtime loss to the Celtics, who went on to win the championship.

Jordan also owns virtually all Chicago records in existence. He is the franchise's leader in points (29,277), rebounds (5,836), assists (5,012) and steals (2,306).

But the one thing he did that Ali was not quite able to accomplish was walk away from the sport in 1998 on top. Jordan's last official shot in an NBA game—a jump shot near the keyhole at left against a sliding Byron Russell of the Utah Jazz—gave Chicago its sixth title in the '90s. That pull-up was much sweeter than the one that clinched an NCAA title 16 years earlier but, more importantly, it assured Jordan his niche in basketball and sports history that time will never be able to obliterate.

Someone said—was it Chris Riley?—that what separates Jordan from the other greats was his ability to improve as he aged. So, if he makes good his threat to stage an NBA comeback next year, will he be as good as he was four years ago? And he'll be 39 next year, having born Feb. 17, 1963 in Brooklyn, New York. Can His Airness defy Father Time?

You tell me.

GOLF ROUNDUP

Barril vs Bibat

LYNDON Barril battles Michael Bibat in the NGAP National age-group finals today at Eagle Ridge. DJ Padilla meets Laurence Negrido in Class B and Charles Hong faces Ton Ton Asistion in Class C in the event sponsored by Philippine Airlines.

Bel-Air scores

BEL-AIR outduelled Magallanes and Wack Wack to rule the first round of the Alaxan Intervillage Makati golf series with 268 Stableford points at Wack Wack recently. Richard Chua and Fernando Vitug starred for Bel-Air.

Miñoza 2 behind

FRANKIE Miñoza squandered his leadership bid with a bogey-bogey finish yesterday, settling for a share of seventh place after the second round of the Chunichi Crowns at Wago Golf Club in Japan. Miñoza shot 66. He was only two shots behind four players sharing the lead at 132.

No tomorrow

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

THE SPACED-OUT first-round NBA playoffs continue today (Manila time) with Game Three of the best-of-five series between the shell-shocked Miami Heat and the surprising Charlotte Hornets at the Charlotte Coliseum.

There's no tomorrow for the third-seeded Heat in the Lone scheduled encounter as the sixth-seeded Hornets seek to close out the series with a 3-0 sweep.

The Hive took the first two games at Miami's American Airlines Arena with a staggering winning margin of 26 points each time, 106-80 and 102-76, while dominating the boards and repeatedly beating the lethargic Heat in transition.

For the Heat, it was the worst time to play so poorly. In the series opener, Pat Riley's troops gave up 106 points—the most allowed by Miami this season. Midway through the third quarter, the Heat trailed 70-42, their largest deficit this season.

In successive games, Miami suffered its two most devastating defeats of the season after its two most lopsided home-playoff setbacks.

Both times, Charlotte engineered a breakaway in the third quarter. In Game One, the Hornets started the second half with a 20-2 run. In Game Two, it was a 24-5 run after halftime.

Ironically, it was the former Heat players now with the Hornets who played a major role in the twin victories that thoroughly demolished Miami's pre-series homecourt advantage.

Jamal Mashburn, who was severely criticized for checking at crunchtime—especially during the playoffs—during his 3-1/2-year Miami tenure, showed up his former team most. The 6-8 forward, who along with P.J. Brown, Otis Thorpe, Tim James (playoff inactive) and Rodney Buford (since waived) was traded to the Hornets on Aug. 1, 2000 for Eddie Jones, Anthony Mason, Ricky Davis (playoff inactive) and Dale Ellis (since waived), tormented Miami with 28 points in Game one and 22 in Game Two for a 25.0 average.

No thanks to season-long injuries to key players, the Heat entered the playoffs with Alonzo Mourning (himself an ex-Hornet following a November 1995 trade), Anthony Mason and Eddie Jones starting together for the first time. Unfamiliarity has taken its toll and Miami now finds itself just one game away from an early playoff exit.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Simpatika 2. Always Remember 3. Legitimo 4. Something Silver
Race 2—1. Agimat 2. Roman Leader 3. Ebony Starr 4. Danielle's Angel
Race 3—1. Khan Caloo 2. Flaming Bullet 3. Good Grace
Race 4—1. Timeless Beauty 2. Lady Queen 3. Bravada 4. Perfect Gift
Race 5—1. Midnight Rose 2. Serena 3. Bumper to Bumper
Race 6—1. Above All 2. Nagniningning 3.Don't Worry 4. Magara
Race 7—1. Arigato 2. Exceptional Charm 3. Sun Bride 4. Strong Bird
Race 8—1. Bidang Bida 2. Lavish Feast 3. Golden Figure
Race 9—1. Make Your Mark 2. Opening Prospect 3. Majestic Ruler 4. Flying Joey
Race 10—1. Baby My Beloved 2. Royal Diamond 3. Arch Rival
Race 11—1. Queen Strom 2. Typhoon Belle 3. Black Ijhay 4. El Condor
Race 12—1. Ilocandia Slew 2. Top Quest/Gifted Galloper 3. Field Master
Race 13—1. Royal Angel 2. Maniaman 3. Shuttle's Magic 4. Timber Nectar

4-cock derby today

THE "UCAP Handlers 4-Cock Derby," a battle royale among the country's well-known gamefowl handlers and trainers who are under the employ of bigtime cockers, finally blasts off at 6 tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

On tap are more than 45 exciting and fast-paced fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

The event is a fitting follow-up to the Prince Jerome Jobo 6-Cock Derby held Thursday night. Lito Orillaza and E. Mercado's Prince Jerome II emerged solo champion from a field of 40 entries.

Meanwhile, the "Gold Cup 5-Cock Derby" is all set next week, May 1 and May 3, to be hosted by journeyman William Go. Go is one of the most active in derbies around Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Roligon reopens May 19

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit, the country's biggest derby center, will reopen on May 19 under the new management of Danny Ty & Co.

Ty, a veteran cocker starting from the glorious days of Teresa Square Garden, is known for his derby promotions and management expertise.

Popularly known as "Mr. Showdown," Ty has vowed to implement much-needed changes, particularly in the matching and fight sequencing processes, squaring of bets and continuity of matches.

It's Alejandro

MICO Alejandro ended his string of heartbreaking losses with a come-from-behind victory in Class B even as Artemio Murakami stayed unbeaten in his division during the recent Chairman's Cup at the Riviera Golf and Country Club course in Silang, Cavite. A playoff loser last week that came on the heels of close misses, Alejandro won this time with a big one-under 71 in the final round to beet erstwhile tormentor Tonton Asistion by two strokes. Alejandro totaled 224 against the 226 of Asistion (76). Murakami continued to lord it over in Class A of the series sponsored by Northwest Airlines as official carrier.

Zonal bows to Vietnamese invasion

Round 5 Standings

Men's Division: Dao, Nguyen AD, 4 points; Antonio, Adianto, 3.5; Nguyen TS, Paragua, Donguines, Torre, Villamayor, Datu, 3; Handoko, Juswanto, Gonzales, Sharavdorj, Ranola, Senador; Hatanbaatar, Kosasih, Garma, Sayson 2; Laylo, Pham, 1.5; Chong 1; Bin, 0.

Women's Division: Hoang, Nguyen, 4; Le, Vo 3.5; Tran, 3.5; Anchimeg, 3; Batceceg, 2.5, Mendoza, Mariano, Siti, 2.5; Li 2; Lomibao, Soyolmaa, Joya, Toledo, 1.5; Tungalag, 0.5.

By Roy Luarca

THE VIETNAMESE invasion is gaining ground in the Asian Zone 3.2a Chess Championships.

Defending champion Dao Thien Hai and fellow GM Nguyen Anh Dung led the men's division even as five Vietnamese bets paced the distaff side after Round 5 at the Grand Boulevard Hotel-Manila.

Dao downed young Filipino IM Mark Paragua in 36 moves of a King's Indian Defense, while Nguyen subdued erstwhile co-leader Fide master Fernie Donguines via time forfeit in 29 moves of a KID Saemisch variation.

Both Dao, who saw action in the 1990 Novi Sad Olympiad when he was just 11, and the Hungary-trained Nguyen raised their total to 4 points, half a point ahead of top seeded Utut Adianto of Indonesia and 5th ranked Joey Antonio of the Philippines.

Adianto and Antonio agreed to a grandmaster draw in six moves of their Caro-Kann encounter.

Handling black, the 17-year-old Paragua said he failed to find an active defense plan that could have led to an active play of pieces.

Paragua and Donguines remained at 3 points in the company of GMs Bong Villamayor and Eugene Torre, Idelfonso Datu and Vietnamese Nguyen Thahn Son.

Shrugging off a fourth loss to Donguines, Torre whipped Indon IM Denny Juswanto in 43 moves of a Closed Sicilian, while Villamayor trounced IM Chito Garma in 43 moves of a Tarrasch variation.

The Vietnamese dominance was even more pronounced in women's play where Nguyen Thi Thanh An stunned WGM Hoang Thanh Trang in 60 moves of a French Defense for a share of top spot.

Nguyen halted Hoang's four-game winning run and also climbed to 4 points, towing 3.5 pointers Le Kiu Thien Kim, Vo Hong Phuong and Tran Thi Kim Loan.

WIMs Beverly Mendoza and Christine Rose Mariano were the highest placed Filipinas at 7th-8th places with 2.5 points each.

Mendoza bowed to Le in 35 moves of a Scotch, while Mariano yielded to Voh in 40 moves of another French.

Round 6 of the tournament being held to choose the zone's representatives to the World Chess Championships, was being played at press time.

PHILIPPINE EXECUTIVE ACTIVE CHESS EXPRESS

TIMEOUT FOR NORWEGIAN ENVOY

HIS Excellency Ambassador Paul Moe (center) of Norway takes time out from his hectic schedule to compete in the sixth leg of the 2001 Philippine Executive Chess Express (Peace 2001) beginning today. Moe is shown here with the tournament staff of Peace 2001. He is flanked by, among others, chief arbiter Einstein Padua, Susan Manalo of Chess Asia and Peace 2001 chief organizer Manolito Ferrer (second from right). The seventh leg fires off at 1 p.m. at Land Bank's Multi-Purpose Hall in Makati City. Peace 2001 is being sponsored by DNS Company and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems Inc., Land Bank, Travel Café, Topmost Engineering and Omni Business Center.

WBC TITLE FIGHT TODAY

Pacquiao drops plan for an early KO

PACQUIAO

By Recah Trinidad

KIDAPAWAN, North Cotabato—Knockout king Manny Pacquiao yesterday cautioned his fans not to expect an early ending to his fight today against Thai challenger Wethya Sakmuangklang for the WBC International super bantamweight title at the Provincial Capitol grounds here.

Left with a vague idea of how powerful the Thai fighter is, the 22-year-old champion dropped his original plan of going for an early knockout in the clash dubbed as "Rumbling by the Mountain II."

Pacquio said all he had seen of Sakmuangklang was a film of a short two-round win by the rock-hard Thai boxer.

"All I can do is box my best. Excited *talaga ako*," he told the INQUIRER. ''

Pacquiao, who observed that his opponent packs a strong and sharp left straight, said unlike in his previous bouts he would not rush in and charge for the kill. Instead, he would look for the right opportunity, hopefully in the middle rounds.

Pacquiao, a southpaw like Sakmuangklang, said he was a bit worried over the fact that his opponent was able to last the distance against Mexican Guty Espadas, who last year knocked out Luisito Espinosa. Both Pacquiao and the Thai have suffered two losses each but Pacquino's defeats were by knockouts, while the Thai setbacks were only via decisions.

The fight will be shown starting at 6 tonight on PTV-4.

The 22-year-old Pacquiao, a native of General Santos City, some 15 kilometers drive from Kidapawan, weighed in at 122 lbs., while Sakmuangklang came in at 121-3/4 lbs during the official weigh-in at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao.

The 12-round encounter is being put up by Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde Jr. in coordination with North Cotabato Governor Manny Piñol. The event, which is being supported by San Miguel Beer, Negros Navigation, Royal Mandaya Hotel and Miller cigarette, aims to raise funds for the provincial grassroots sports development program.

Two other WBC international title fights are on tap. Minimum weight champion Ernesto Rubillar clashes with Somthawin Singwongcha and elder brother light flyweight Juanito duels Fahsang Pow Pongsawang.

Bruce McTavish of New Zealand will be the referee-judge for the Pacquiao-Sakmuangklang main event, while the two judges are Thai Nopparat Sricharoen and American Gene del Bianco.

Ali, Frazier daughters spar verbally

PHILADELPHIA—It remains to be seen whether Laila Ali and Jacqui Frazier-Lyde will deliver the same thrilling in-the-ring rivalry their famous fathers did three decades ago.

So far, the trash talking is living up to the legend.

"I thought you were beautiful until I met you," sneered the daughter of Joe Frazier.

The model-actress-boxer daughter of Muhammad Ali responded, "I knew you were ugly as soon as I met you."

The women—neither of whom probably get called ugly very often—warned Thursday there would be "butt-kicking" and "whooping" in the June 8 fight being billed as "Thrilla in Manila 4."

"A person like this needs to be busted up," Ali said, as Frazier-Lyde laughed loudly. "She needs a muscle to that mouth."

Several times Frazier-Lyde yelled in a mock announcer's voice, "Laila gets knocked out. Down goes Ali." To which, Ali rolled her eyes.

"I'll give it to you right now, if you want it," Frazier-Lyde taunted from the podium another time, moving a chair so Ali could approach her.

"I want to feel it right now," Ali answered, but she turned away when Frazier-Lyde laughed that it would have to wait for the paying ticket-holders.

The eight-round fight to be held at the Turning Stone Casino near Verona, New York, has been in the works since Ali's first fight two years ago. Frazier-Lyde began boxing a few months later, and has made it no secret that her goal was to confront the daughter of her father's biggest rival.

Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier met three times in what would become one of boxing's greatest rivalries.

No contest decision

CINCINNATI —The Ohio Athletic Commission has changed the decision in a bout between Olympic medalist Ricardo Williams Jr. and Damian Guerra from a technical draw to a "no contest." The junior welterweight bout April 20 was stopped after the second round after an accidental head-butt by Williams cut Guerra over his eye. *AP*

Joppy excited

NEW YORK—When Hassim Rahman knocked out Lennox Lewis in the fifth round and won the WBC and IBF heavyweight championship last Sunday, Rahman's stablemate and friend, WBA middleweight champion William Joppy, was excited. *AP*

Whitaker returns

STATELINE, Nevada—Pernell Whitaker feels like a 21-year-old boxer making his pro debut as he heads into Friday's return to the ring against Carlos Bojorquez.

Whitaker is 37 and hasn't even watched a fight—much less been in one—for two years. *AP*

Thinking and living conservation

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE RECENT celebration of Earth Day was a grand affair, as usual, but next year's celebration promises to be even grander.

Take the Save Davao Gulf Foundation for example. Its members will not only be thinking and living conservation, they will also be "rewarding" those responsible for polluting the once fresh and clean gulf and depleting plankton life, subsequently destroying the thriving factory of marine resources in the godforsaken area.

"Lason (Poison) Awards" will be given in the year 2002 by the foundation to firms and other culprits behind the pollution of the environment, said Commander Crisanto Agustin of the 8th Philippine Coast Guard division based in Davao City. He said "lason awardees" would be determined by a year-long study of their environmental and waste disposal practices. John Largo, the foundation's executive director, added complaints from residents would also be a compelling factor in selecting the "winners."

A multisectoral organization, the Save Davao Gulf Foundation Inc. was founded in July 16. 1996 by individuals concerned with the protection and conservation of our marine resources. After barely three months of existence, the foundation was cited as "Most Active Proponent of the Coast Clean-up." It was conferred the award by then President Fidel Ramos in Malacañang during a meaningful ceremony marking the 10th Global Coastal Clean-up Day last Oct. 4, 1996.

The foundation is now a backbone of conservation, intent on spreading further its serious crusade to stop the use of destructive fishing methods like dynamite fishing, *pakaladkad* (trawling), roller netting and the use of cyanide. It also aims to protect and manage coastal marine habitat though artificial reef laying and mangrove planting, not to mention that coastal, river and underwater clean-up are made regularly. The foundation has also distributed garbage drums along strategic areas of the gulf where passenger boats and barges have collected the unsightly refuse.

Writing about marine life brings memories of my stay in Kona a few years back during the Hawaii International Billfish Tournament where US Coast Guard Captain Dennis "Mike" Egan was the keynote speaker in a luau (Hawaiian feast) one evening. Egan, who worked closely with the late environmental legend Jacque Cousteau in the 1970s,commended the HIBT anglers for taking steps to save the seas for future generations, mentioning in particular the HIBT tag-and-release program which he said was "just phenomenal Spectacular."

"It is interesting that this tournament does not result in the stripping of the ocean and these fish, but is a part of a very successful and scientific T&R program," said Egan. "This effort has had far reaching effects," added Egan, who saw HIBT anglers from all over the world releasing 80-90% of their catches back into the sea, hoping for their continued life and the proliferation of their species.

Wacky ready for Grand Prix

TOP FEMALE rider Wacky del Rosario of Caltex Revtex-Quickload Ice is ready for action, posing a big threat to her male counterparts at the kickoff of the Pagcor Philippine Grand Prix this weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The 21-year-old multi-awarded racer, backed up by Metzeler Tires of Caloocan Sales Center, Manila Cordage, Scab Marine, World of Health Phils., Floors and Ceilings-Greenhills and Red Corner Boxing gym, was one of the sensational rookie drivers who joined last year's super bike series.

Del Rosario's team is still contemplating on whether to keep her in the novice division or pit her skills against the country's finest superbike riders in the expert category.

That's because of her big improvement after her strict fitness routine and rigid training in Las Vegas under the tutelage of World Grand Prix champ Freddie Spencer during the off season.

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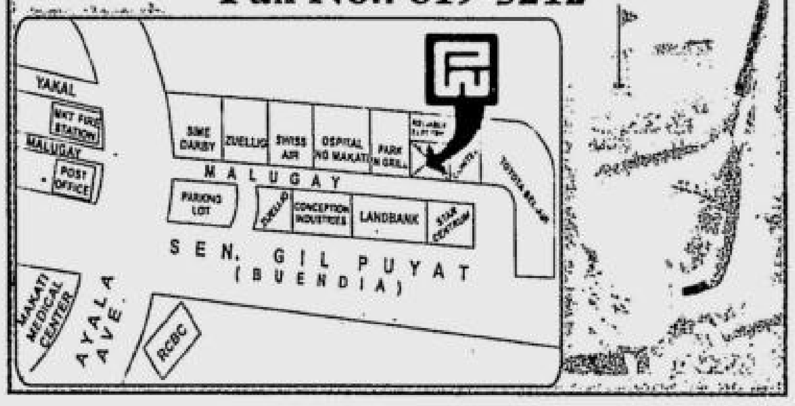

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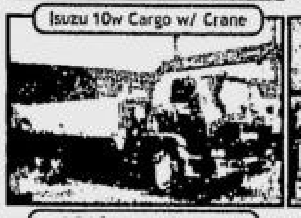
Komatsu D95S Crawler Loader

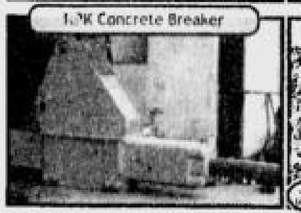
Mitsubishi MG 500S Grader



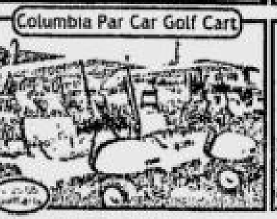
Isuzu 10w Cargo w/ Crane

Unused Kia Granto Dump Truck

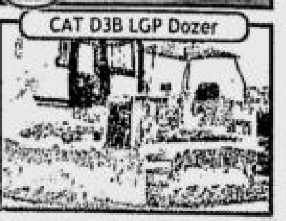
Fuso Canter w/ unic crane



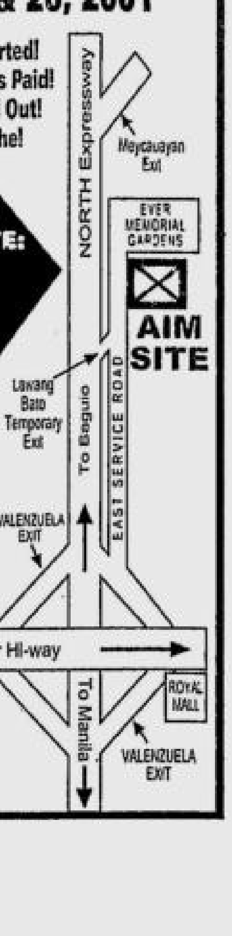
Concrete Breaker



Columbia Par Car Golf Cart



CAT D3B LGP Dozer



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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▣ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

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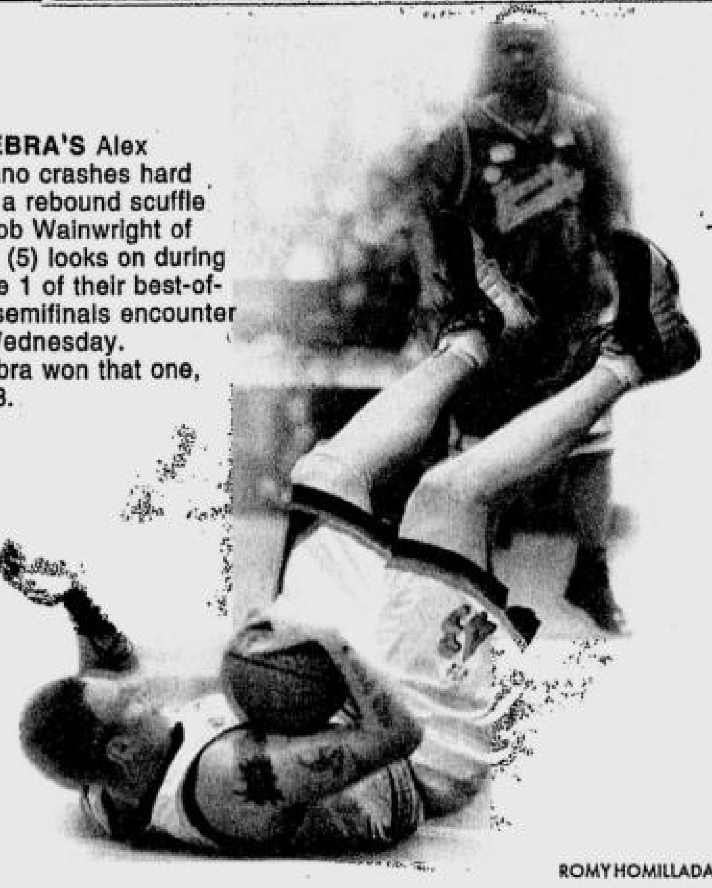
BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN

NBA Playoffs, First Round – Miami vs Charlotte, Game 3 at 8 a.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.), Philadelphia vs Indiana, Game 3 tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on ESPN

NBA Inside Stuff at 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: SBK Superbike Highlights at 8:30 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on Star Sports

F1 Qualifying - Spanish Grand Prix at 7 p.m. (r – tomorrow at 1 a.m.) on Star Sports



GINEBRA'S Alex Crisano crashes hard after a rebound scuffle as Rob Wainwright of Shell (5) looks on during Game 1 of their best-of-five semifinals encounter on Wednesday. Ginebra won that one, 90-78.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Ginebra wins, 74-72

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta*)
4:15 p.m. – Pop Cola vs SMB
6:30 p.m. – Shell vs Ginebra

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

WITH a single burst of boldness last night from the "blond one," Barangay Ginebra moved to within a win of the PBA All-Filipino Cup finals at Philsports.

Sensational neophyte Mark Caguioa, his hair dyed blond since the start of the season, ripped through Shell's defenses with 5.3 seconds left to score the winning shot.

After receiving an inbound pass, Caguioa drove toward the key, completely eluding Rodney Santos. From there, he sank a well-aimed looper that gave the Gin Kings a 74-72 win and a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five semifinals series.

"It was designed for him alone," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic of the play meant to break the 72-72 deadlock, following blunders by Ginebra's Alex Crisano and Shell's Dale Singson.

Another win on Sunday over the now badly-shaken Shell will put Ginebra to the best-of-seven title series, something the franchise hasn't experienced in four years.

"I don't want to think of a sweep," said Caidic. "But we'll definitely go for it on Sunday.

"This is the closest we've come to a finals, and we won't lose this opportunity."

The Gins, facing the same team that swept them two years ago in the same series, definitely made good use of the chances given them.

Knowing that Jun Limpot and Vergel Meneses were already marked men, the Gins used both players alongside the peppery rookie, a ploy that worked wonders throughout.

Shell failed to focus on Caguioa and instead concentrated on Limpot and Meneses, who both gamely yielded the spotlight to the third overall pick.

Caguioa finished with 14 points, 10 rebounds, two steals and one block in another shining feat to augment his bid to win this year's Rookie of the Year honors.

Shell had the chance to tie the game but Benjie Paras fumbled anew after receiving an inbound and lost the ball to Bal David, a sixth of a second left.

In the other semifinals' encounter, San Miguel Beer repulsed Pop Cola, 81-66, to level their best-of-five series at 1-1.

GINEBRA 74 – Limpot 18, Caguioa 14, Meneses 11, Magtulis 11, David 8, Helterbrand 6, Calpito 4, Crisano 2.

SHELL 72 – Paras 19, Wainwright 16, Hrabak 11, Singson 11, Jackson 9, Telan 4, Esplana 2, Lim 0, Marzan 0, Dualan 0.

Quarters: 16-17, 35-36, 55-57, 74-72.

Ateneo-La Salle in PBL today

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—GIV Beauty Soap vs Montaña Pawnshop
4 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Osaka Iridology

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	7	0
Ana Freezer	5	1
PharmaQuick	3	3
Welcoat	3	3
GIV	2	3
Montaña	2	3
Ateneo	1	3
Hapee	1	4
Osaka	0	5

BY DENNIS U. EROA

FIREWORKS will not be missing as rivals Ateneo-Pioneer and La Salle-Osaka Iridology mix it up today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Though both teams are nowhere the top spot, the Insurers and the Iridologists are expected to go all out just like in their storied UAAP rivalry. Gametime is 4 p.m.

GIV Beauty Soap and Montaña Pawnshop collide in the 2 p.m. curtain-raiser.

Carlo Cruz made the winning basket as Whiz Super Oil stunned Regent Cheeseballs, 78-77, for its first victory in the PYBL Crystal Spring Cup at the University of Assumption Gym in San Fernando, Pampanga. Regent dropped to its second loss in three games.

Ateneo debuted with a bang over defending champion Welcoat but faltered in its last three games. Osaka has a 0-5 card.

In order to have a decent chance against the Insurers, the Iridologists must check their tendency to collapse in the homestretch. Osaka had lost close fights to Shark and Hapee, respectively.

The winner between GIV and Montaña, both carrying 2-3 cards, will climb to third in the company of PharmaQuick and Welcoat.

Coach Nat Canson is hard-pressed to snap GIV's three-game losing streak. To achieve it, Canson must find a way to check GIV's error-filled game in the fourth quarter.

Bear Brand kitefest in Palawan

BEAR Brand Kitefest 2001, the biggest and most prestigious kite-flying competition in the country, will be held in Puerto Princesa tomorrow at the Puerto Princesa-Palawan Sports Complex.

Open to all individuals, groups of family members or friends, the event has four categories: Junior Kite for Children, Flat Kite, Geometric Kite and Figure Kite Category.

Cash prizes and trophies are at stake in the annual competition, which will also be held in Manila and other key cities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The Manila kitefest is set for May 13.

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Cowboy GRILL 431 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	STAY TUNED SWEETBLOOD	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy GRILL NOVALICHES Q.C.	REPLICA MR. ROXY/KOOLJACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎936.9757
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TEXTLINER

CPD official demanded grease money, says trader A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Drug suspects kill cop

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A PASAY policeman was killed while four other men were seriously injured in a shootout between lawmen and suspected drug pushers in Pasay City early yesterday morning.

PO1 Roserio Clave, 26, died on the spot after he was shot in the chest, investigators said.

Clave's colleague, PO1 Ador Caab, is in critical condition at the San Juan de Dios Hospital after he was shot three times in the abdomen.

Both officers are assigned to the Pasay Police Community Precinct 1.

Three tricycle drivers were also hurt in the crossfire. They were identified as Benedicto Bermuz and Fronio Gajiron, both residents of Barangay La Paz, Makati, and Carlos Ilagan, of San Andres, Manila.

Escol said the two policemen were on routine patrol at the corner of P. Burgos and Briton streets in Pasay City about midnight when they chanced upon five suspicious-looking characters, including three women, on board a tricycle, said PO3 Fernando Escol of the Pasay City Police Criminal Investigation Division.

When Clave approached the tricycle, one of the suspects suddenly fired on the officer with a .9mm pistol, killing him instantly, Escol said.

Caab returned fire and hit a female suspect, identified only as Nanette.

Caab and the three tricycle drivers were wounded in the ensuing exchange.

The suspects fled on board the tricycle.

Police identified three of the suspects as "Onyok," "Lorna" and "Ariel." The fifth suspect remains unidentified.

Police believed that the five suspects were conducting a drug deal when the two officers spotted them.

Police are hunting down the suspects.

In Muntinlupa, a vendor was killed while his companion was seriously injured in another drug-related shooting early yesterday morning.

Carlito Villasaya, 35, of National Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa, died on the spot after he was shot several times. His companion, Rodolfo Tenzo, 46, also of National Road, is in critical condition at the Muntinlupa Medical Center.

An unidentified witness told police that the two men had been drinking and were walking home at about 3 a.m. along the Fabian Compound, Purok 4, Alabang, when a group of men suddenly blocked their path.

A heated argument ensued between the two groups and, when Villasaya and Tenzo turned to leave, the group of men fired at them then fled.

Police theorized that the shooting was drug-related, based on interviews with witnesses.

With reports from Allison Lopez and Lorraine Santos

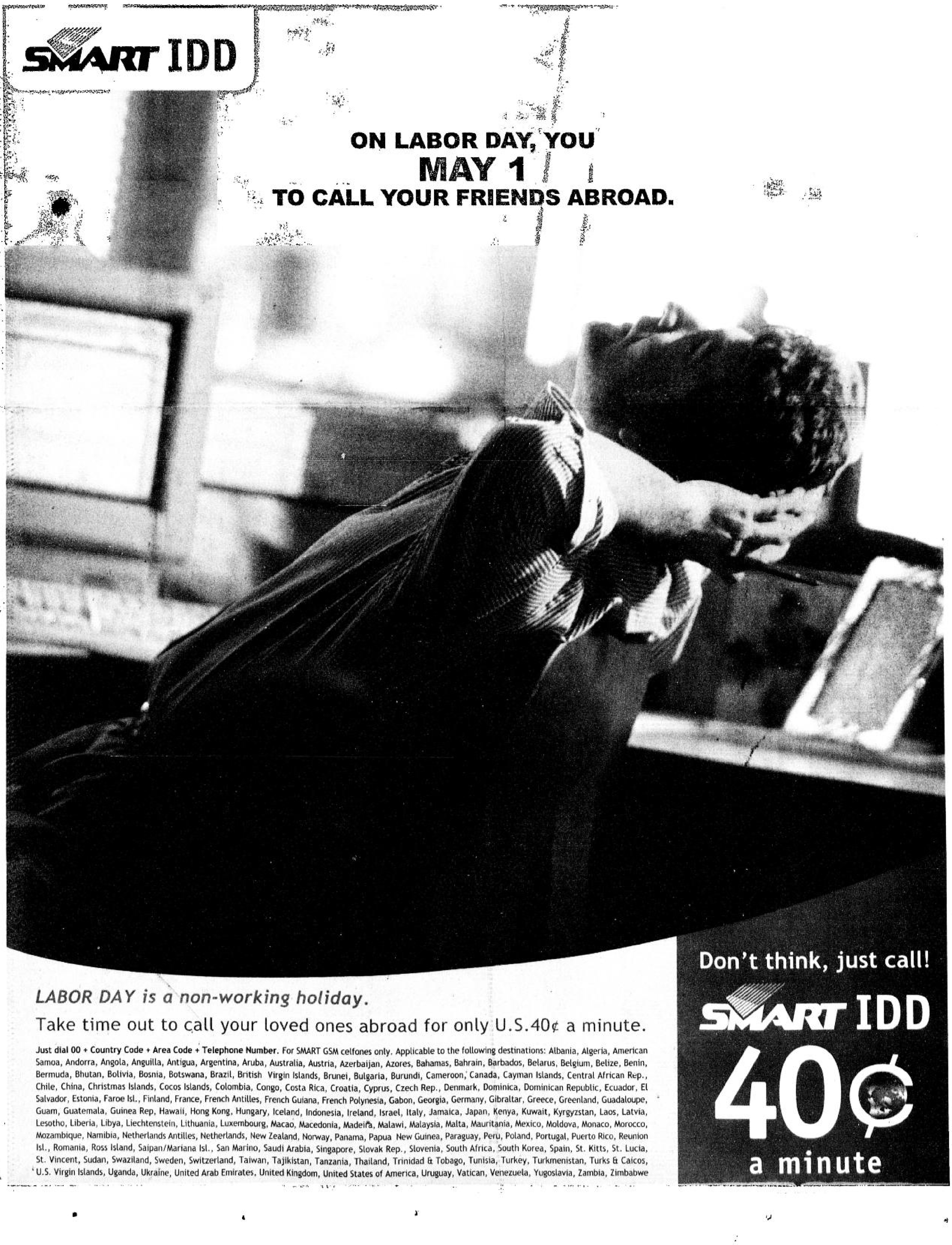
Kidnappers of 2 traders want ₱150M

BY JEROME ANING

THE ABDUCTORS of a Singaporean businessman and his British partner (not Filipinos and not siblings as earlier reported) have demanded P150 million in ransom for their release.

Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., Western Police District director, said the suspects telephoned Evelyn de Leon, a cousin of the wife of kidnapping victim Benedict Leong,

KIDNAPPERS/ A29



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Worker slain in front of his new girlfriend

By Philip C. Tubeza

FACTORY worker Edilberto Opeña should have been spending the coming days in bliss for the girl he was courting finally agreed to be his girlfriend.

But Opeña's rival put an abrupt end to his newfound love. Thursday night, the rival killed him.

Opeña, 22, of 292 Araneta Avenue, Barangay Manreza, Quezon City, died while doctors were trying to save him after his rival, identified only as Sonny, stabbed him repeatedly in front of the girl they both courted, the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit said.

Sonny did not listen to the girl's pleas to spare Opeña's life, police said.

Opeña and his girlfriend had just been to a date when they encountered Sonny around 11:30 p.m. Thursday along Araneta Avenue.

Sonny allegedly confronted the girl and Opeña and told her about his continued affection for her, police said.

But the unidentified woman allegedly told Sonny that she had made her choice and that she wanted Opeña to be her boyfriend.

Police said infuriated Sonny and the couple had a heated verbal exchange.

During the height of their argument, Sonny pulled out a fan knife and lunged repeatedly at Opeña, police said.

Despite the pleas of Opeña's girlfriend, he continued to stab Opeña until he could no longer fight back.

Sonny escaped, police said.

Opeña was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center but he died while undergoing surgery, police added.

The authorities were still trying to get a description of the suspect from the victim's girlfriend.

Youth beaten to death in Malate's Arts Venue

By Jerome Aning

FOR trying to pacify a fight, a 20-year-old man was beaten to death by a group of other young men in a popular youth hangout in Malate, Manila, before dawn yesterday.

Daniel Richard Hake II, single and a resident of San Andres Street, Malate, was brought by his companions to the Ospital ng Maynila.

He was later transferred to the Philippine General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 3:50 a.m. yesterday, police aid.

SPO1 William Gondranios said that Hake, along with his girlfriend Michelle Reyes, 21, and three unidentified male companions, went to the Arts Venue on Taft Avenue, Malate around 1 a.m.

While Hake and his friends were celebrating, one of his companions got involved in an argument with another group, the investigator said.

Hake tried to intervene and pacify the groups, but the members of the other group beat him up, SPO1 Gondranios said.

Investigators said Hake died of extensive "epidermal hematoma" that affected his internal organs, according to the attending PGH physician. As of yesterday afternoon, no relative has claimed the body of the victim from the PGH morgue. *With a report from JP Andaquig*

Boy shot dead by gang

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy was shot dead yesterday by members of a gang who were reportedly angered by his courtship of a girl in Tondo, Manila.

Rosauro Paguinto, a resident of Corral Street, Tondo, was pronounced dead upon arrival at the Mary Johnston Hospital, also in Tondo. A bullet hit him in the left side of the back and pierced his liver, doctors said.

Investigators learned that two of the teenage suspects were members of a group called True Brown Style 13.

SPO3 Victor Miparanum of the city police's homicide section said the group earlier warned Paguinto that "bad things" would happen to him if he continued courting a girl on F. Varona Street, Tondo.

On Tuesday night, the members of the group beat up the persistent Paguinto after he visited the girl, police said. *Jerome Aning, Jeusa Raflores*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 28, 2001
2nd Week of Easter

1st Reading:	*Acts 6:1-7*
Gospel:	*Jn 6:16-21*

When evening came, the disciples went down to the shore. After a while they got into a boat to make for Capernaum on the other side of the sea, for it was now dark and Jesus had not yet come to them. But the sea was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing.

They had rowed about three or four miles, when they saw Jesus walking on the sea, and he was drawing near to the boat. They were frightened, but he said to them, "It is Me; don't be afraid."

They wanted to take him into the boat, but immediately the boat was at the shore to which they were going.

Commentary:

Most probably disappointed by Jesus' not giving in to the popular enthusiasm to acclaim him as king, the disciples headed for Capernaum. Jesus is revealed in this scene as one full of divine authority. The evangelist shows this not only by Jesus' power over the sea but above all by his assuring words: "It is I. Do not be afraid (anymore)!" It is this Jesus, one with God whose name may not be pronounced, who in the eventual Eucharistic discourse reveals in his fragile humanity God's purpose for the world. Discover that divine purpose in your own humanity.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Execution of judgment—Under Rule 39, Section 6, 1964 Revised Rules of Court, a judgment may be executed on motion within 5 years from the date of its entry or from the date it becomes final and executory. After the lapse of such time, and before it is barred by the statute of limitations, a judgment may be enforced by action. This rule applies to the case as the Rules of Court are applicable to labor cases in a suppletory capacity. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Tag Fibers, Inc. v. NLRC, G.R. No. 120931, October 20, 2000].

Digest by R.B. Vera

CPD official demanded grease money from me, says trader

By Philip C. Tubeza

A BUSINESSMAN has accused a high-ranking official of the Central Police District of demanding grease money for the release of the complainant's scooter.

Ramon Jaramillo, 40, of Kamias Road, Quezon City, accused Supt. Renato Lozada of the Anonas police station's intelligence and investigation branch of demanding P6,000 for the release of Jaramillo's scooter, the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU) said.

Jaramillo filed the complaint after police accused him of being a bet collector for illegal gambling.

The complainant said he was driving his scooter along Kamias Road in the afternoon of April 14 when policemen arrested him.

While he denied being a bet collector, he was brought to the Anonas police station and charged with illegal gambling, the complainant said.

But after police filed the case before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, the fiscal granted Jaramillo bail, according to police.

But Anonas police did not release Jaramillo's impounded scooter even after he paid his bail bond and the fine for the vehicle, investigators added.

When he went to the station, policemen allegedly refused to release his scooter even when he showed them its release papers from the fiscal.

Lozada allegedly demanded P6,000 before police would release the scooter, the complainant said. Jaramillo said he went to the CPD-CIU in Camp Karingal at Sikatuna Village, Quezon City to file a complaint against Lozada.

The Inquirer tried to contact Lozada yesterday afternoon but the telephone at the Anonas police station was out of order.

Catholic vs INC at Edsa

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CROWD at Edsa, dubbed "poor people power," will probably be at its thickest today, Saturday, because many office workers who sympathize with deposed President Erap will attend.

The Edsa crowd the past days was composed mostly of unemployed citizens from various squatter colonies in Metro Manila.

The huge Edsa rally since Wednesday, when Erap was arrested, had in attendance the country's unemployed.

* * *

The bulk of the throng came from the Iglesia ni Cristo (INC), a powerful religious sect whose leadership still supports the deposed president.

INC head Erano "Ka Erdie" Manalo reportedly urged his followers to go to Edsa "to pray." But nobody from the INC went up the stage to lead the crowd in prayer.

It seems like battle lines have been drawn between the INC and the Catholic Church.

It's now a fight between Ka Erdie and Ka Jimmy or Jaime Cardinal Sin.

* * *

The INC's television station, Net 25, as well as its radio station, dzEC, is giving the "poor people power" rally full coverage.

Only reporters from these stations were allowed by the crowd to cover the event. Reporters from other media outlets, including ABS-CBN and GMA 7, were driven away by the hoodlums among the crowd.

The exclusion of other media outlets at Edsa has only alienated the majority of Filipinos who are not INC members against the religious sect.

Please, Ka Erdie, don't make a religious issue out of this.

* * *

Members of the Catholic cult El Shaddai have added warm bodies to the Edsa crowd. They have the blessings of their head, Mike Velarde.

Unlike Manalo, Velarde has an ax to grind against the Macapagal administration. Recently, government prosecutors were preparing charges of plunder against Velarde. He allegedly manipulated the sale of his real estate property to the government for hundreds of millions of pesos during the Erap administration.

Should the unexpected happen as a result of the "poor people power"—such as the return of Erap to power—Velarde will be the biggest beneficiary.

* * *

Old habits really die hard. Velarde, who has supposedly turned a new leaf, is an example.

Before he became a religious demagogue, Velarde was a confessed gambling addict. As a result, he had many estafa cases in court for issuing bouncing checks.

* * *

Velarde's followers at El Shaddai are what P.T. Barnum referred to as "one born every minute."

They follow him blindly. They contribute their last peso to El Shaddai which, despite its many years of existence, has not been able to build a single church.

Velarde, however, has invested the money from real estate and other businesses.

* * *

Last week, I wrote about the case of Navy Capt. Eladio Tangan, whose penalty of two years and four months for homicide was increased by the Supreme Court to 14 years. The high court apparently ignored the mitigating circumstances which the lower court found in favor of the accused.

I've had the chance to read and analyze over the weekend the decisions of the Makati Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals on Tangan's case. It is obvious that the high tribunal not only ignored the findings of the lower courts but also completely reversed them.

It appears that the high court overlooked clear physical evidence showing Tangan was physically attacked and wounded by the victim Manuel Miranda and his uncle before the shooting.

* * *

What is disturbing is that the decision was concurred in by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. who is almost unanimously regarded as competent, fair-minded and just.

It's surprising that the chief justice missed the fundamental fact that Tangan was attacked and wounded prior to the shooting. The records in the lower court and appellate court showed this.

Many were impressed by Davide's handling of the impeachment trial of former President Erap. Tangan's lawyers are surprised why the chief justice concurred in an "unfair and unfounded" decision.

There's only one reason: Chief Justice Davide signed his concurrence without reading the records of the case.

* * *

Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez probably got embarrassed after a subordinate he kicked out was retained by President Arroyo.

Postmaster General Nicasio Rodriguez was told to stay put by the President although Alvarez told him to leave.

Rodriguez, an Erap appointee, tendered his courtesy resignation after GMA took over.

Alvarez immediately accepted his resignation. The DOTC chief didn't give GMA the courtesy of reading Rodriguez's letter.

Alvarez appointed an officer-in-charge, Antonio Alvarez, to take over from Rodriguez.

Last Monday, there would have been a big party given by Alvarez for taking over the postal service.

The party did not take place. A letter from Malacañang said that Rodriguez is still the postmaster general.

GAMES BIG BOYS PLAY

Boys watch as movie stuntmen do their weekend practice at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Kidnappers of 2 traders want P150M

(From page A25)

around 7 a.m. Thursday and demanded the ransom.

The suspects set 8 a.m. yesterday as the deadline for the relatives of the victims to comply with their demand. But the pay-off did not push through for some unknown reason, police said.

Leong, a Singaporean, and Judy Chan, a Hong Kong resident with British citizenship, were on board a Nissan Frontier and were on their way to the latter's residence on Baretto Street at BF Homes in Parañaque City, when they were abducted by a group of armed men disguised as policemen in Tondo, Manila around 3:30 a.m. Thursday.

The victims, both ethnic Chinese and in their 40s, own STD Manpower Services, a large overseas recruitment agency registered under the name of Leong's Filipina wife, Josie. Police learned Chan arrived in the country on April 23 to interview prospective applicants.

The victims' driver, Hernan Cuna, 28, claimed he and the victims had just come from Tuguegarao City in Cagayan Wednesday night and had dropped off a friend of his employers on Juan Luna when they were waylaid.

Cuna said that at the corner of Juan Luna and Pag-ibig Streets in Tondo, six to 10 men in police uniform on board a Mitsubishi Adventure (WHD-980) signaled him to stop for an inspection.

Cuna told police that Leong apparently sensed danger and told him to stop the engine and throw the key of their vehicle out the window. Cuna did as he was told.

Several suspects alighted from the Mitsubishi with guns drawn. Cuna said they apparently planned to board the Nissan and drive away with the victims. But the suspects panicked when they learned the key was missing.

While some of the suspects argued among themselves, others decided to drag the victims into the Mitsubishi at gunpoint.

The driver said that in the confusion, he managed to escape from the suspects and hid in a dark alley.

Cuna and residents in the area later said they heard a gunshot. The driver said he went back to the scene and found the car abandoned. He called police for assistance.

Pasinos said his men recovered from the scene an empty .45-caliber shell and a red bag marked Firestone.

The bag contained a policeman's cap, a PNP-NCR Command patch, a deformed red flashlight, two rolls of gauze and a box of Band Aid, two blank cassette tapes and a roll of masking tape.

Also found was a letter strictly warning the victims' relatives to cooperate with the kidnappers and not to report the incident to police.

Chan's white shoes and Leong's sandals were also recovered on the street.

Pasinos said they have traced the Mitsubishi's license plate, WHD-980, to a 1999 Vesta Van owned by a Reynaldo Cuneta Jr. of Taguig.

Cuneta will be summoned to WPD headquarters for questioning.

Pasinos said Cuna was subjected yesterday to a lie-detector test at the National Bureau of Investigation.

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Another Sotto tries politics

Voter's Voice
2001
ELEKSYON
INQUIRER GMA

GIRLS of Lala Sotto's age and social standing would normally be partying or hanging out with friends in upscale coffee shops. But Sotto, at 24 the eldest daughter of Sen. Tito Sotto III and former singer-actress-turned-civic-leader Helen Gamboa, is leaping into the political arena.

She is the lone woman candidate for councilor not only in the 3rd district but also in the whole of Quezon city.

The young Sotto vows to confront the problems and needs of the vast majority of Quezon City residents in their fight against lawlessness, abuse of women and children, drug addiction, garbage, unemployment and poverty.

Her foundation Kasama has embarked on initiatives that include protecting and guarding the youth and the urban poor from the evils of drug addiction and similar vices. The group has also undertaken socio-civic projects such as medical missions and people empowerment projects in poor communities and barangays in Quezon City.

In keeping with the notion that non-traditional politicians don't subscribe to works of impersonal bureaucracy and red tape, Sotto makes her home phone number available to people who need her help.

SOTTO

She also admits to admiring President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who she thinks is making a difference in helping the country recover from its most recent social and political trauma.

Resty Vergara

ROBERT DEAN BARBERS

I will restore true public service

BY NINI VALERA

MAKATI Councilor Robert Dean Barbers, the youngest among the three sons of Sen. Robert Z. Barbers, is left home alone during the campaign season.

His older siblings, reelectionist Surigao Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, 30; and eldest brother Robert Lyndon Barbers, 31, a first-time political candidate running for governor also in Surigao, would be busy with their own campaigns in the Barbers' hometown.

Robert Dean, or just Dean, is planning on becoming the vice mayor of Makati City, a showcase of two extreme classes in the social spectrum—the country's Central Business District and home to most of the top 1,000 corporations in the Philippines, as well as the ubiquitous sidewalk fishball peddlers and pirated VCD vendors.

"Usually, I am an orphan during election time," says Barbers. "They (his brothers and father) would all be in Surigao."

He admits that his family discouraged him at first to run even for councilor of Makati, home of ritzy Rockwell Center and host to squatter squalor. But Barbers stuck it out in the city that straddles two disparate economic brackets and mindsets because "I grew up here and my brothers grew up in Surigao."

It is this yawning gap between the very rich and the very poor that poses the biggest campaign challenge for Barbers, 29.

That Barbers is running mate of real life movie star and Makati mayoral bet Edu Manzano under the Lakas-NUCD ticket is yet another hurdle Barbers has to face.

He relates that one time in a house-to-house sortie with Manzano in District 2, where the Barbers name means nothing even if it has made a mark in the 1st district, the people went wild over the actor who was in the recent hit movie, "Tanging Yaman."

As Manzano shook hands with his adoring public, a woman approached Barbers and told him in Filipino: "Boss, can you take my picture with Edu?" Barbers says he agreed.

In another house-to-house campaign, this time in Barangay Pembo, Barbers felt he couldn't keep up with the popularity of the former husband of Vilma Santos and Maricel Soriano so that he merely stood quietly as the residents of Pembo warmly welcomed the actor.

But a person standing beside Barbers asked him, "Boss, *ano ang tatakbuhin ng amo mo* (What elective post is your boss gunning for)?"

It's difficult, Barbers says, to get noticed if your running mate is idolized by the masses. "Whoever I shake hands with and introduce myself to would not even look at me if Edu is behind my back."

That he takes seriously his aspiration for a higher public post shows in his answers to the rather tough questions that are asked of all candidates interviewed for these Metro profiles.

Standing by his battlecry of "Bagong Pulitiko sa Bagong Pulitika (New Politician for the New Politics)," Barbers maintains a determined purpose to change the face of Makati politics and reinvent it to fit the needs of his would-be constituents. He vows "to challenge the old system and bring forth a new one" where moral ascendancy prevails above all else.

He swears he would bring an original idea into office: A comprehensive and absolutely free drug rehabilitation program that includes job placements for drug victims that have undergone treatment and are fully rehabilitated.

He stands firm on his convictions and principles that he claims he would never bend for self-gain, and that he would serve the public and not the other way around.

BARBERS ROMY HOMILLADA

He is proud that no graft charges have been filed against him in this larceny-laden field of local politics, and prouder still that he was the "first to advocate the constitutional provision called 'People's Initiative,' which empowers the public with a mechanism to pass or repeal a law passed by the city council."

He swears he would "rid the city of graft and corruption' and promises to do this by "bringing back the

I WILL/ A28

AMADO BAGATSING

I will give dignity to the city

BY NINI VALERA

IF PUBLIC service were a birthright, Amado Sevilla Bagatsing, 53, would have been born into it. His father, Ramon Bagatsing, was a three-term congressman of Manila and was mayor of the city from 1972 until 1986.

Bagatsing the son is running against two formidable rivals—incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza and former Mayor Alfredo Lim.

"(People have) seen the best of my two opponents," he says, "but they haven't seen the best of Amado. Maybe it's about time (the people) did."

Unlike the campaign promise of the incumbent to bring the decaying city back to life, Bagatsing wants to give the people of Manila a new lease on life.

"Who killed Manila in the first place?" says Bagatsing. "The death happened in his term. I would rather bring life back to the people. It's people who make a city, not the city who make a people."

He promises to do this by calling on the city's businessmen and asking them to provide employment for people who have made Manila their home.

"I would ask them to make Manila residents their priority in hiring," he says. "The city would give them all the services. The least we could do is make them part of making the city safe and productive."

Only by giving his constituents a means for living, Bagatsing says, would he be giving life to the city.

"When people are productive, they make a city," he notes. "In effect, we're going to re-invent Manila. It's so easy to tell you that we would give you a vision of Manila. But what can you do in one term? A program can be done in three consecutive stages if you would be given the mantle for three consecutive years. At the end of your term, you'd probably accomplish 70 to 80 percent of your vision of the city."

BAGATSING

His central campaign theme revolves around health, employment, a solution to the drug problem, housing, and sports for the youth. Already, he has been active in providing the poorest of the poor with health services.

As Manila's 5th district congressman until 1998, Bagatsing says he had already sunk in P100 million for the city's health programs.

"We have the annual Kabalikat ng Bayan Sa Kaunlaran (Kabaka) Foundation wherein we have a tie-up with some Chicago-based doctors, including pharmacists, nurses who come here every November and provide medical attention to the city's poor. We have been doing this for eight years now. For the last 15 years,

I WILL GIVE DIGNITY/ A28

Suspected highway robber nabbed

A SUSPECTED member of a robbery gang preying on passengers of jeepneys on C-5 Road was arrested Wednesday by Taguig police.

Senior Supt. Jose S. Gutierrez Jr., acting director of the Southern Police District, identified the suspect as Roman Villena alias "Botyok," 23, of L. Quezon Street, Hagonoy, Taguig.

Gutierrez said policemen arrested Villena in a jeepney terminal in Signal Village, Taguig.

The policemen said they recovered from Villena a fan knife, sachets of shabu, a coin purse, and two school ID cards, apparently owned by the victims of the suspect.

Gutierrez said that aside from robbing jeepney passengers, the suspects were also notorious thrill killers.

Police said Villena and another accomplice, a Jerry Olandria, were involved in the killing of a Rommie Calzado, also on C-5 Road, on April 9.

Villena was positively identified by the driver of one of the jeepneys they preyed on, Mario S. Aniscal, and by two passengers, Maricel Giba and Marites Apolinio.

Villena is detained at the SPD headquarters.

Guiterrez said he has ordered an additional team of policemen to track down Olandria, who is reportedly hiding in Rodriguez (Montalban), Rizal.

Alcuin Papa, Jojo Arazas, Roy Jolito

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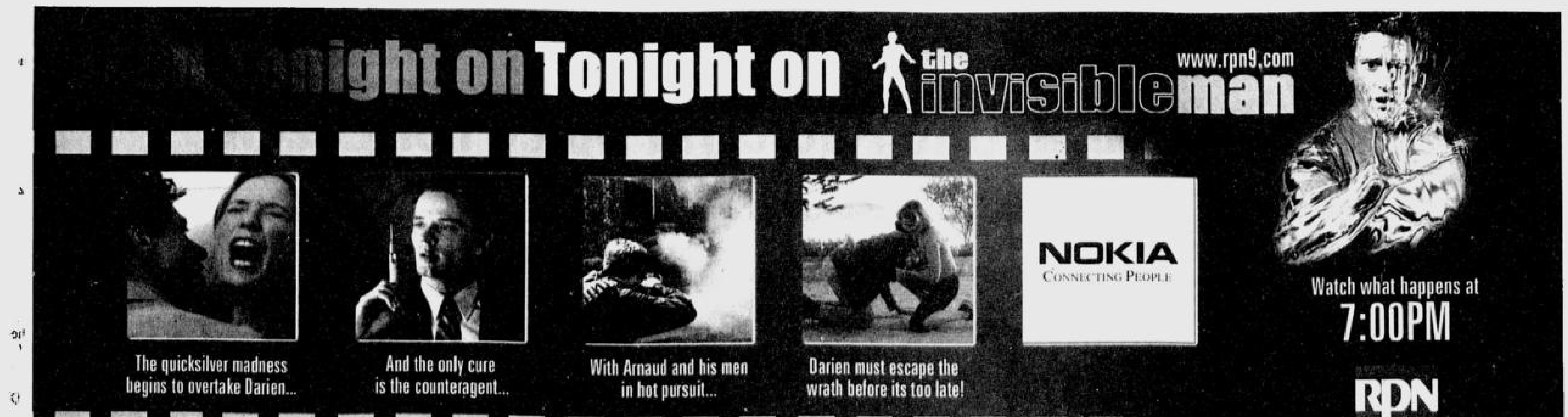
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Parks to take place of slums along Pasig

By Jerome Aning

PARKS will soon take the place of the squatter colonies lining the historic Pasig River.

The Department of Tourism yesterday said that starting this year, it would build 10 parks along the Pasig River in an effort to restore the waterway's once-famous natural beauty and teeming ecosystem.

The DOT and the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, which was created under the Ramos administration to save the dying waterway, will jointly supervise the project.

The two agencies would be expecting stiff resistance from various urban poor groups whose members live in slums on both banks of the river, from Manila in the west, and Pasig and Taguig in the east.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon identified the sites of the riverside parks, expected to be completed by next year, as West Rembo in Makati; San Agustin, Quinta Market, Muelle del Rio, Muelle del Banco Nacional, Fort Santiago and Sta. Ana Market in Manila; Mandaluyong; and Barangay Pineda in Pasig.

Gordon said the department allotted P160.8 million for the project, which is partially funded by the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations.

The project will require landscaping, drainage, electrical and construction works, public toilets, billboards and other signs, benches, lampposts and kiosks.

The 10 parks will cover a total land area of around 41,000 square meters.

The 4,200-square-meter Makati Park will be built on J.P. Rizal Street from Estrella Street to a private lot near the Poblacion Park, just across the Rockwell Center.

The West Rembo linear park will be located southwest of the C-5 bridge and near the 250-meter-long flood control wall put up by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The Muelle del Rio linear park will be divided into four parts, from the Philippine-Mexican Friendship Plaza outside Intramuros to the MWSS compound.

Over the past two years, the government has transferred squatters to various resettlement sites in Bulacan, Rizal and Cavite. Dredging operations to deepen the heavily silted parts of the river are ongoing, as studies have shown that the river is being choked by garbage dumped by factories and riverside squatters.

New SJ police chief vows clean polls

By Agnes E. Donato

THE NEWLY installed chief of the San Juan police chief yesterday vowed to ensure the conduct of peaceful and honest elections in May in the hometown of jailed former President Estrada.

On his first day in his new assignment, Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia also promised to take orders only from the chain of command of the Philippine National Police and not from any politicians.

He said he did not expect to have any problems in gaining the support and trust of the local officials and residents.

Asked why he thought he was picked to lead the police force of Estrada's so-called bailiwick, De Gracia replied: "I am the best man for the job."

"They need somebody impartial for the coming elections," he said.

The Commission on Elections approved De Gracia's appointment as early as the first week of April, but the PNP leadership reportedly decided to postpone the turnover of command until the arrest of Estrada and his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

"I requested to have my takeover postponed until after the arrest because I didn't want it to be tainted with political color," he said.

De Gracia replaced Supt. Gilbert Cruz, who served San Juan for more than three years. Cruz would be placed on a floating status in the Eastern Police District.

Youth stabbed over old grudge

A TEENAGER is now in jail, three months after he allegedly tried to kill another teenager over an old grudge in Pasig City.

The suspect was charged with frustrated murder and slight physical injury for stabbing another 17-year-old on Jan. 18.

Investigation showed that the suspect was walking his girlfriend home when three men stopped them at about 10: 15 on Jan. 18.

The three men, one of whom was allegedly an old enemy of the suspect, started to beat him up, police said.

In an attempt to defend himself, the suspect pulled out a knife. They fought for possession of the knife, and the suspect overpowered the victim and stabbed him.

But the suspect claimed that it was the victim who was carrying the knife.

He said he did not intend to stab the victim, but he was forced to do so after a friend of the latter kicked him.

The suspect is detained at the Pasig City police station.

Nickson Ryan Matias

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Rod Reyes rejects link to Marquez

FORMER press secretary and Ambassador Rod T. Reyes denounced what he called vicious attempts by his rivals to link him with Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez.

Reyes denied he issued a statement lauding Marquez.

"I strongly deny having issued any statement praising Mayor Marquez for whatever he has done for Parañaque," said Reyes, who is running as an independent candidate for representative of the lone congressional district of Parañaque.

Reyes said that as an independent, he should not engage in partisan politics. He said that if Marquez, a comedian, is reelected, he (Reyes) would have no choice but to support the mayor's administration.

"But to come out with lavish words for Marquez at this time of the campaign period is uncalled for and unethical of me as an independent candidate," Reyes said.

He said citing Marquez in the spurious statement only fuels reports circulating in Parañaque that Marquez was junking his congressional running mate, Eduardo Zialcita, a perennial loser in Parañaque elections.

A veteran newsman, Reyes urged his rivals to keep the playing field level and avoid media statements that would only sow discontent and hatred among the candidates and their supporters.

"I ask my rivals to campaign on issues and platforms and not engage in shotgun operations," Reyes said.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Masangkay challenges Fresnedi

MUNTINLUPA mayoral candidate Bess Aguilar-Masangkay yesterday again challenged reelectionist Mayor Jaime Fresnedi to a public debate to help the electorate decide who is the better choice to lead the city in the next three years.

Aguilar-Masangkay made the challenge as she blamed Fresnedi's "lack of leadership and vision" for the city's underdevelopment.

Aguilar-Masangkay is a sister of Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar.

She said private organizations and civic groups are willing to sponsor a public debate.

Aguilar-Masangkay said Fresnedi, a lawyer, has avoided debating with her for fear that the encounter would expose his "so-so performance and incompetence."

She noted that despite an adequate annual city budget that this year reached P1.1 billion, the Fresnedi administration has little or no accomplishments to show the people.

She accused Fresnedi of mismanaging the taxpayers' money and allowing his friends to corner lucrative city government contracts.

BEHIND BONG
A big crowd of supporters follows reelectionist Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. as he goes around in Silang town.

Rivera fights Eusebio in Pasig

FORMER Public Estates Authority chair Wainwright Rivera is continuing his candidacy as the Aksyon Demokratiko candidate for mayor of Pasig City.

Rivera said he decided to go on with his poll bid after the entire Aksyon ticket in Pasig threw its support behind him in the party's quest to end the decade-long stranglehold on Pasig by the Eusebio dynasty.

"We believe Chair Rivera best embodies the qualities of leadership needed by the political opposition in Pasig," said Councilor Rene Lipana, who is running for vice mayor.

Former councilor Noel Medina, who is also backing Rivera, urged former Mayor Mario Raymundo to stop sowing dissension in the ranks of the opposition and to join the local chapter of Aksyon in ensuring the defeat of the Eusebio husband-and-wife team in the May 14 elections.

Tax breaks from Binay

BUSINESSMEN and residents of Makati can look forward to tax breaks within the next five years, as mayoral candidate Jejomar C. Binay promised to look for opportunities to raise revenues through stock and equity acquisitions.

Binay said he has ordered a study of the legal and fiscal implications of the city government investing in stocks and bonds and acquiring equity in private banks.

"I believe that if we are able to create new and extraordinary revenue streams, we can assure funds for our initiatives in electronic governance and guarantee funding for the continuation and expansion of our existing services and programs," he said.

Binay, who served as Makati mayor for 12 years and has been credited for introducing fiscal reforms, asked for inputs from experts in the private sector to hasten the implementation of these plans.

Makati's income has been rising since 1986 despite economic difficulties. Last year, despite economic difficulties, the city government posted an income of P3.5 billion.

Binay said the steady increase in income has provided stability in the government's services and programs.

DR. FRED LIM
Former Manila mayor Alfredo Lim, who is running for the same post in the May 14 elections, is conferred a doctor of laws (honoris causa) degree by the University of the East, where he earlier obtained degrees in law and business administration. The same school earlier picked Lim as most outstanding alumnus of 1994, outstanding alumnus of the college of law and most distinguished alumnus of 1990. With Lim are Panfilo Domingo and Mona Valisno of the Commission on Higher Education.

SERVICE BY SONNY
Speaker Sonny "SB" Belmonte, who is running for mayor of Quezon City on a good government platform, is endorsed by Barangay Holy Spirit chair Chito Valmocina (left), Mrs. Leticia Magaan (right) and other officers of the Haligi ng Bata Inc., a non-government organization serving more than 26 depressed and underserved communities in Metro Manila, Bulacan and even La Union.

MUNTI HOSPITAL
Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi (right) and Rep. Ignacio Bunye shake hands at the inauguration of the city government-owned Ospital ng Muntinlupa in Alabang. According to Fresnedi, health cards will be distributed to poor residents of Muntinlupa so they can avail themselves of free medical services at the hospital, which was inaugurated yesterday.

I will give dignity . . .

(From page A27)

we've already had a program called from 'Womb to Tomb, From Cradle to Grave.'"

His personal crusade remains housing and he vows that it would play a major role in his administration if he is elected mayor.

He says that as a congressman, his best piece of legislation "was when I made (membership) to Pag-IBIG mandatory." Through Pag-IBIG, the working class now has access to housing loans but without the burden of high interest rates from other lending institutions.

That Manila is plagued with problems that seem not to have solutions does not overwhelm Bagatsing, who claims to enjoy public service but describes it as a thankless job.

"Garbage, for example. If you look at it collectively, it's huge and you're immediately overwhelmed. So break it into pieces.

"Manila has six districts. And if you toss the problem to each district, you would be able to come up with six different solutions or approaches. Then you can adopt the best solution."

To address the problem of crime and drugs in the city, Bagatsing wants to amend the portion of the Constitution that provides for the nationalization of the police force.

Bagatsing still has many dreams for his city. The biggest, however, is how he would give the poor their dignity.

"No one wants to be poor in the first place," he says. "But that is a reality. So you have to address the problems of the poor and make them contribute to society by alleviating their poverty, by giving them dignity. By doing that, I am giving dignity to my city. Since my city is the prime city, I am giving dignity to my country."

I will restore . . .

(From page A27)

true meaning and practice of public service."

And even if he became the last man standing in Makati, he says he would rise again and "fight for my principles even if traditional politicians had said I am committing political suicide by doing just that."

Had he known better, Barbers confesses that he would not have run for public office because of the pressures the local political system exacts on political neophytes like him.

But now he knows better and he says he would fight fiercely for what he feels is right because he believes "that there's a God who is forgiving, loving and merciful."

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SM CINEMA GUIDE

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	MADERASO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
3	DTS	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MADERASO
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
8	DOLBY SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	AIR BUD 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MADERASO
2	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
5	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
10	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANTI-TRUST
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
8	DOLBY SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EVANGELINE 14
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE CROW
10	DOLBY SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
12	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3

SM SOUTHMALL 8066668 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
2	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
5	ULTRA SURROUND	XTREME WARRIORS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
9	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
10	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE CROW
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MADERASO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST	
2	THE MEXICAN	
3	SWEET NOVEMBER	
4	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND	

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	FINDING FORRESTER	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE MEXICAN	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MEXICAN THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BLACK & WHITE (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	DOUBLE TAKE	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SWEET NOVEMBER	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	ANTI - TRUST	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	FINDING FORRESTER	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE MEXICAN	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE MEXICAN THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	ANTI-TRUST	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SWEET NOVEMBER	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	RUGRATS IN PARIS	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1	(DDS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2	(SDDS)	CROUCHING TIGER
3	(DTS)	AIR BUD
4	[illegible]	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	[illegible]	ANTI-TRUST
6	[illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	[illegible]	THE MEXICAN
8	[illegible]	EXTREME WARRIOR
9	[illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	[illegible]	ABAKADA INA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		X TREME WARRIOR
3	(DTS)	CLOSED
4		INIT NG DUGO
5		ATTACK FORCE
6	(DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1	(DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	(DTS)	HAPLOS
3		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	X TREME WARRIOR
3	MADERAZO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1		CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
4	(DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
5		X TREME WARRIOR

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	X TREME WARRIOR
2	ABAKADA ..INA
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	THE MEXICAN
6	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7	ALIW MASARAP ANG BAWAL
8	ATTACK FORCE

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	
2	AUTUMN IN NEW YORK
3	FRIENDS AND LOVER
4	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

1	BIYAHENG LANGIT
2	
3	THE PORNOGRAPHER
4	THE NINTHGATE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ABAKADA...INA
2	WOMAN ON TOP

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	INIT NG DUGO
3	MS. CONGENIALITY

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
A	X TREME WARRIOR

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	
3	

GOTESCO CINEMA City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1	(DOLBY)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		RESERVE
3		RESERVE
4		ATTACK FORCE
5		THE CROW
6		X TREME WARRIOR
7	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8	(SDDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
9	(DOLBY)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		MADERASO
4	(SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
5		X TREME WARRIOR
6	(DOLBY)	ATTACK FORCE
7	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8		RESERVE
9		RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		ABAKDA .. INA
4		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	(SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6		EXTREME WARRIOR
7	(DOLBY)	ATTACK FORCE
8		MADERAZO

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1		NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
2		THE MEXICAN
3	(DTS)	XTREME WARRIOR
4		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	(SDDS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	(DOLBY)	
7	(DOLBY)	

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Dilson
(Manila) tel 714.7724

Dilson	ONE NIGHT STAND
Lords	MADERAZO
Jennet	TEQUILLA BODY SHOT

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	THE MEXICAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	RESERVE
4	X TREME WARRIOR

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	THE MEXICAN
2	MADERAZO
3	ATTACK FORCE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	X TREME WARRIOR

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	MADERAZO
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HAPLOS
4	X TREME WARRIOR
5	ATTACK FORCE
6	INIT SA DUGO

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	X TREME WARRIOR
3	MADERAZO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1		SWEET NOVEMBER
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	(DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	(DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
4		THE SEDUCER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1	(SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2		EXTREME WARRIOR
3		3000 MILES
4	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1	(DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	(DTS)	THE MEXICAN
4		THE SEDUCER
5		PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	THE MEXICAN
3	THEY NEST

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	THE MEXICAN
3	THEY NEST

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THE GIFT
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	THE SEDUCER

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	THE MEXICAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	SINS OF THE NIGHT
3	INIT SA DUGO
4	THEY NEST

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL (049) 5314808

1	(DTS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	(DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ALIW MASARAP ANG BAWAL
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	THE SEDUCER
4	AIR BUD 3

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	ATTACK FORCE
2	X TREME WARRIOR

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ABAKADA INA
2	X TREME WARRIOR
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	MS. CONGENIALITY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	(DOLBY EX)	THE MEXICAN
2		NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3		SWEET NOVEMBER
4	(DTS EX)	THE CROW

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THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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Robinson's Place
2nd Level (Pedro Gil Gate)
Ermita, Manila

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Stars in the running

(From page A31)

treated politics as serious business."

He was the chair of the city council committee on utility and franchise for cable companies, tricycles and pedicabs, and vice chair of the committee on ways and means. He was also a member of the committees on accountability of public officers, human rights and tourism, trade and industry.

A regular performer of the GMA TV sitcom "Idol Ko si Kap," Ortega took a leave of absence from the show to concentrate on his campaign.

Edu Manzano

Edu Manzano has served as Makati City vice mayor for three years and is now running for mayor against Jejomar Binay, former mayor and former chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Manzano's platform is based on four principles or core beliefs needed to clean up Makati and make the city government more responsive to people's needs and aspirations.

The first principle is justice. Manzano wants to eliminate graft in transactions involving the Makati City government. He wants to prosecute the guilty, end prostitution, gambling and drug trafficking in Makati, weed out corrupt officials and clean the system, increase benefits and services to the people and lower takes.

He wants to provide housing for employees, police and firemen and relocate some 12,000 homeless families. He wants to release land titles in Fort Bonifacio to the rightful occupants of the lots.

The second principle is transparency. Manzano wants to simplify procedures for business transactions, conduct public bid-dings and eliminate red tape, clean up the voters' list and end ghost projects and contracts.

Third is performance. This includes the establishment of a health, education and burial trust for the needy; corruption-free garbage collection; greater contributions to public school education from the city's special funds; environmental protection; improvement of sports programs; new hospitals, clean public markets, safe public transportation; and an all-out war on drugs and vice.

Fourth is accountability. Manzano wants full activation of the local school board, health board and development councils, improve social welfare programs and increase government salary scales.

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2. SWEET NOVEMBER
3. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5. ABAKADA...INA
6. 3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7. ANTI TRUST

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2. 3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3. ABAKADA...INA
4. SWEET NOVEMBER
5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. THE GIFT
2. THE MEXICAN
3. AIR BUD 3
4. SAVE THE LAST DANCE
5. QUILLS
6. THE SEDUCER

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	EXTREME WARRIORS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE MEXICAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ANTI-TRUST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE CROW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SWEERT NOVEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ATTACK FORCE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	X TREME WARRIORS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ODEON-2	X TREME WARRIORS
ROBEN	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
TANDEM-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	VERTICAL LIMIT / WHERE IS MY CAR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	X TREME WARRIORS
QUEZON-1	X TREME WARRIORS
REMAR	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
REMAR-2	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-2	GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ATTACK FORCE
CINEMA-2	MADERASO
CINEMA-3	THE CROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	THE SEDUCER
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-12	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-14	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-15	ABAKADA. INA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
CINEMA-3	MS. CONGENIALITY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-2	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-4	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-5	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

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Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

Stars in the running

By Leah Salterio

MORE show business stars, big and small, are taking on real-life roles as local-level and party-list candidates in the elections.

Tirso Cruz III

Tirso Cruz III—popularly known as Pip of the phenomenal Guy and Pip tandem with superstar Nora Aunor—is a first-timer in politics. He is running for vice mayor of Las Piñas under the Lakas-NUCD party.

Cruz registered "Pip" as one of his official names for the May 14 elections. As Guy and Pip, Aunor and Cruz helped in the restoration of the world-renowned Bamboo Organ, by doing a benefit show in the southern Metro Manila city.

Says the actor-singer on being a crowd-drawer during the campaign: "It's a big advantage that people recognize you. But the people of Las Piñas are looking for someone who can do something for them. I believe our party is offering the people a chance to have a system of checks and balance in the city. The people are looking for change.

"I've been a resident of Las Piñas for 12 years now and I feel it's time to take an active participation in what's going on. I want the place where my family lives to be safe, clean and progressive."

Cruz was vice president of the Katipunan ng Artista sa Pelikulang Pilipino (KAPP) for seven years.

Cruz is still active in the movies and remains well known in Las Piñas and other parts of the country, but he says "I don't want to be complacent. Tony Tamayo, who is our party's bet for the congress, told me that you have to push yourself to the limit when you campaign."

Cruz wants to reinvent public education and focus on the modernization of educational facilities and teaching method.

"Public school teachers should be given the proper support to improve the quality of their teaching," he says. "This should include training and other necessary programs."

He vows to fight poverty and propagate community redevelopment through intensified poverty-alleviation and livelihood projects.

He wants an effective nutrition and health care system for a healthy Las Piñas population.

"Let's say I have served as vice mayor for a term of three years. I don't want people to say I was a non-entity in the municipal hall and I did nothing. I'm not here just to earn *pogi* points. I'm here to work for Las Piñas and its people."

He plans to have monthly consultations with the barangays to find out about the problems of the people.

Cruz says his parents Tirso Cruz Jr. and Elma Cruz are the people who have helped shape what he is now. His role model is "Honest Abe Lincoln."

"To be given that tag really means a lot," Cruz says.

But it is his wife of 20 years, Lyn Ynchausti, who has made the biggest impact on his life, he says.

"Lyn keeps me going and I know she will not let me down," he says. "She is my pillar of strength. I know she will not leave me and she will never turn her back on me."

He says his wife vowed to fully support his political venture. "She told me to pray hard about my decision and said she will back me up all the way. She told me that if the people of Las Piñas will choose me, she wants me to go to the municipal hall with my head held high and to leave three years later with my head still held high. She wants the people to be able to say that I tried my best and I never stole any money from them."

Even if he is elected, Cruz says he will continue acting on TV and the movies, including the late-morning TV series, "Kirara," on GMA 7.

"When I talk in my caucuses, I request the people of Las Piñas to allow me to continue my acting career. My public service is for them and my profession is for my family."

However, since he filed his certificate of candidacy on Feb. 28, Cruz hasn't accepted any film or TV projects.

"That makes me unemployed for the past two months now," he says. "But I'm a stickler for rules. I sacrificed my acting craft to be able to enter politics."

Richard Gomez

Television and movie actor and sportsman Richard Gomez is the representative of the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) party-list group, which is seeking three seats in Congress.

"The people should know that their votes will be for the MAD party-list group and not for me," Gomez points out. "They should write MAD on the ballot and not my name."

Gomez says that unlike local-level candidates, being a party-list group representative is harder because he needs to campaign nationwide.

"We need 2 million votes to be assured of three seats in Congress," he explains.

Gomez is also the chair of the MAD Foundation, composed of 15 volunteer members. The other representatives of the party-list group are Gen. Jewel Canzon and Mike Policarpio.

Gomez deplores the fact that some party-list groups gain media exposure by hitting his group.

"Party-list groups have their respective causes," he says. "Our own agenda is anti-drugs."

He says MAD wants to amend the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972 and lower the required minimum quantity of shabu to 10 grams for drug pushing and make the offense non-bailable.

"The law says you have to be carrying at least 200 grams of shabu to be charged with drug pushing," he explains. "That's a big quantity and we want to propose to lower it."

MAD also wants to have drug prosecutors and judges appointed to handle only drug-related cases.

"There are now 26,000 pending drug cases in the Department of Justice and most of them take forever to be resolved because the judges are handling a lot of other cases," Gomez says.

MAD wants to set up more rehab centers all over the country, particularly in the provinces. The foundation now has a center called Bahay Bagong Buhay in Bicutan that houses 400 drug-dependent youths for free. The center has volunteer doctors and is funded through donations from private companies and individuals, nongovernment organizations and the government.

MAD wants to continue its advocacy program and propagate its anti-drug awareness campaign.

Robert Ortega

Former movie star Robert Ortega of the Liberal Party is running for a second term as councilor of Manila's 5th District.

The son of Col. Robert "Bobby" Ortega, Robert, 27, says he was greatly influenced by his father to enter politics.

"It was not a hard decision on my part because I really want to help people," the young Ortega says. "My dad has done public service for 30 years as a law enforcer. He also did legislative work when he became councilor."

His father is also running for mayor of Baguio City, after having served as councilor for three terms.

"My family has been in politics since 1901 and we're celebrating our centennial in politics this year," the young Ortega says. "My grandfather, Francisco Ortega, was a former Speaker and a mayor of Baguio."

Ortega has a degree in human resource development from De La Salle University.

For the 5th District which covers Intramuros, Malate, Ermita and Paco, Ortega wants to continue what he has started.

"I don't see the point of making new projects when you haven't completed the first ones," he says.

His early projects include the renovation of public parks and the upgrading of sports facilities.

"We also give tax rebates to business establishments or waive the improvement fees so they will be encouraged to improve their businesses," he says.

Ortega also plans to continue his mass weddings, which have so far involved more than 400 couples.

He is proud about the cleanliness of his district. "You go around Manila and you can't see any garbage," he says. "We have no garbage crisis. Our collection is regular. Disposal is the problem of the contractor."

He says he proposed 630 ordinances in his first term.

"I'm very active in the council," he says. "From day one, I

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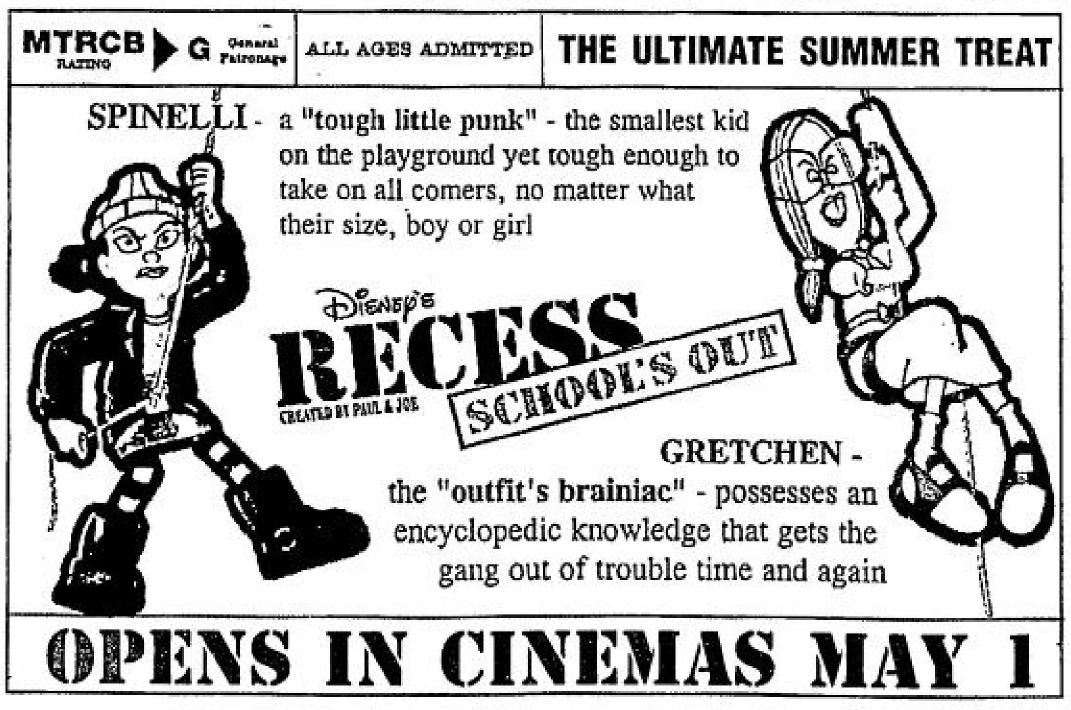
SWEET NOVEMBER - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND - R 18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00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OPENS IN CINEMAS MAY 1

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LATE NIGHT SCREENINGS
AYALA CINEMAS

LATE NIGHT SCREENING SCHEDULES
FOR
APRIL 28 (Sat.) 2001

THE MEXICAN
BRAD PITT JULIA ROBERTS
(MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13)

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
12:00 NN / 2:20 PM / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:10 / *11:30*

GLORIETTA 1 (QUAD)
12:10 PM / 2:45 / 5:20 / 7:55 / *10:30*

GLORIETTA 4
11:35 AM / 2:10 PM / 4:45 / 7:20 / *9:55*
1:40 PM / 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 / *12:00 MN*

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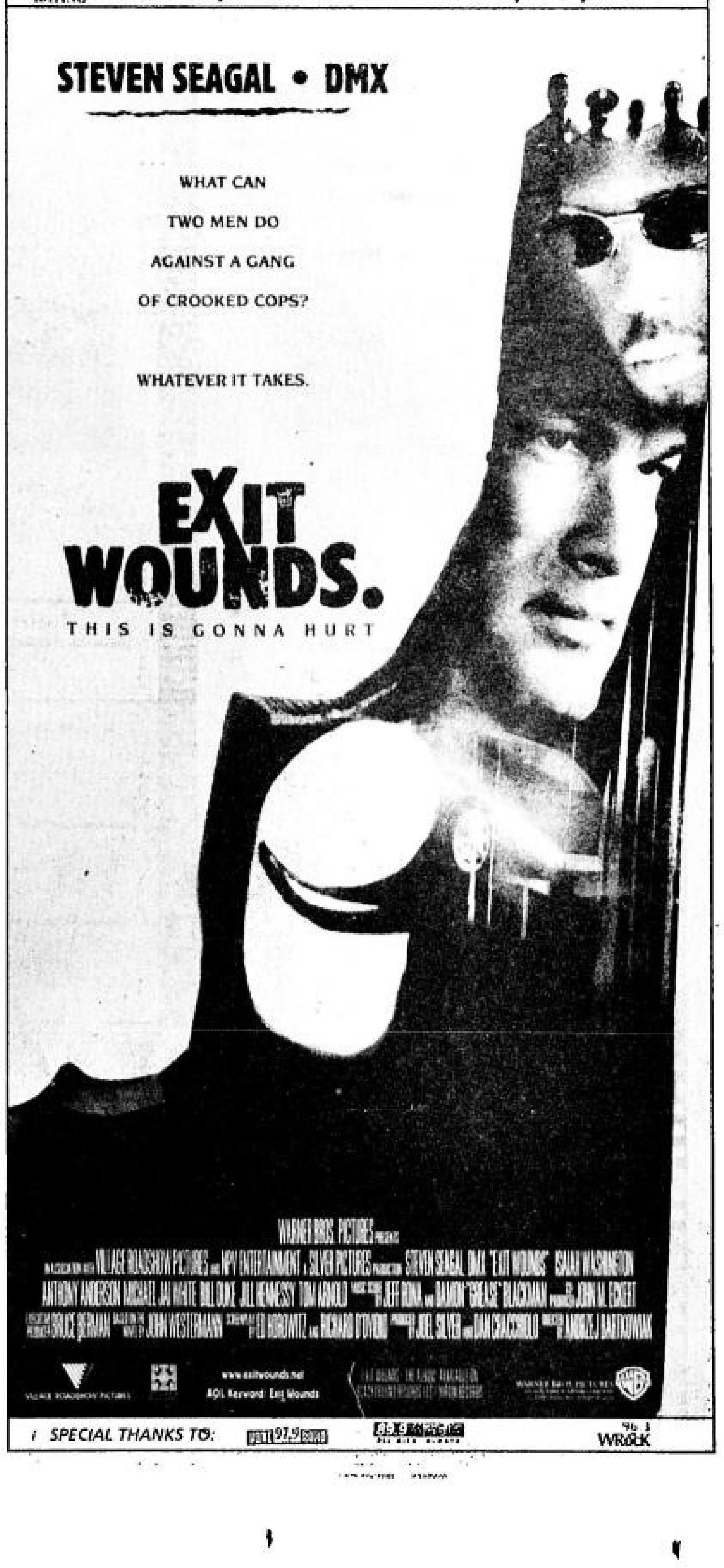
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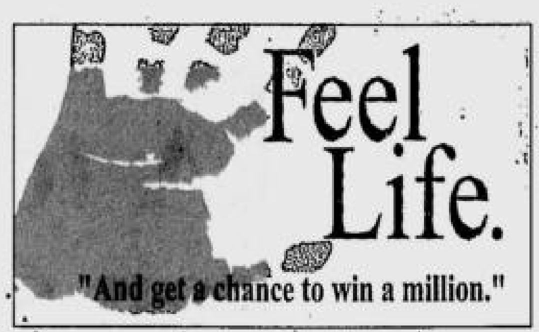

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Political woes drag stocks to 4-month low

STOCKS closed at its lowest level in four months yesterday on growing worries about the street protests sparked by the detention of former President Joseph Estrada on a nonbailable charge of plunder.

Better-than-expected first quarter income results from some companies, such as Globe Telecom, were largely ignored as the market's focus shifted anew to political factors.

The 33-share composite index slid 17.14 points, or 1.19 percent, to end at 1,420.36 points, the lowest close since Dec. 19. The index managed to pare its losses after hitting a new year-low in intra-day trade of 1,407.53 points.

The index lost 8.18 points, or 0.01 percent, on the week. Turnover rose slightly to P398.47 million from the previous P302.18 million. Losers were in a three-to-one majority.

"If we are trying to resolve things through demonstrations, that will cause alarm for investors. You don't want people to take to the streets every time there is a problem," said Albert Chua, portfolio manager of All Asia Asset Management.

A huge crowd ranging from 70,000 to 150,000 gathered at a religious shrine on Edsa, less than a kilometer from where Estrada was being held to demand his release from detention. There were no reports of violence and the crowd dwindled to about 3,000 by morning, police said.

Estrada was taken into custody on Wednesday after the anti-graft Sandiganbayan court ordered his arrest on a charge of economic plunder, an offence punishable by death or life in prison.

The peso was also pressured, falling to a low of 51.37 to the dollar in intra-day trade from its previous close of 51, partly due to concerns over the protests.

But the central bank said it saw no need to raise overnight rates to defend the peso, which has fallen to levels not seen since January.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that while regional developments affected the local markets, the rally had created a "sense of political instability."

Thousands of supporters of Estrada shook the financial markets starting Thursday as they continued a street protest to demand his release and return to power.

The size of the protest took the government and anti-Estrada forces by surprise but officials remained confident that his successor as president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, was in control.

Police officials said they were still exercising "maximum tolerance" toward the protesters but riot police and fire hoses are ready to move in if they became unruly.

The large gathering around a Roman Catholic shrine was a morale booster for the dispirited Estrada as he tried to adjust to his new surroundings and prepared his defense. The crime of plunder is punishable by death.

His supporters sang songs lampooning Ms Macapagal and waved banners saying "Erap forever."

The number of protesters was expected to rise again after office hours, organizers said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the Cabinet had put "contingency measures" in place in case of trouble.

By organizing the protests, Estrada's supporters were trying to recreate the massive uprising centered at the same historic shrine in January that resulted in his ousting amid a corruption scandal.

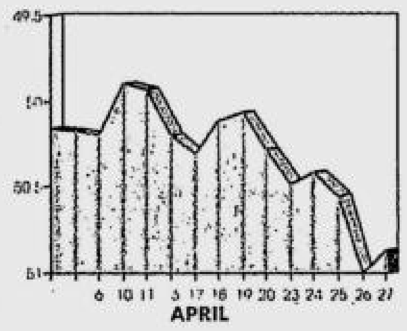
But unlike the January protest, which was led by the influential Catholic church and middle-class forces, the Estrada protesters were mostly from the slums. The shrine's overseers accused them of desecrating the site.

Reuters, AFP

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

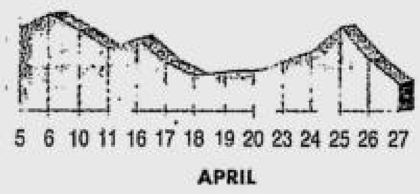
P50.870 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
April 27, 2001

¥124.06 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 124.06 as of 5 p.m.,
April 27, 2001

GOLD:$264.50/265.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
April 27, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Globe nets P1.07B

GLOBE Telecom Inc. said yesterday its unaudited net income for the first quarter of the year rose to P1.07 billion from P335 million last year.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Globe said the income growth was due to the increase in subscriber base, which hit the three million mark as of end-March from around two million as of end-2000.

Globe is a joint venture firm of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom. *Reuters*

Coke Amatil owners back sale to SMC

SYDNEY—Shareholders in soft drink maker Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd. yesterday approved the sale of the group's Philippines unit for A$2.25 billion to The Coca-Cola Co. and San Miguel Corp.

Under the deal, San Miguel Corp. will acquire 65 percent of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) in exchange for the cancellation of its 219.4 million shares in C-C Amatil valued at A$4.75 each, while C-C Amatil's major shareholder The Coca-Cola Co. will acquire the remaining 35 percent.

The sale plan and a 40 cents a share capital return, also approved by shareholders, had been unanimously recommended by C-C Amatil's independent directors.

Analysts have said the planned sale fits Coca-Cola's strategy to decentralize operations in its more than 200 markets around the world. *Reuters*

INTEREST RATES

DAILY STATISTICAL INDICATORS

April 27, 2001

PARTICULARS	Today	Previous Day	Week Ago
Bangko Sentral R/P Rates (% p.a.) 1/ 27 April 2001			
Overnight R/P	11.7500	11.7500	11.7500
Interbank Call Loan Rate (% p.a.) 26 April 2001			
Weighted Ave.	9.5938	9.5625	9.6563
High	9.6250	9.6250	10.1250
Low	9.5625	9.5000	9.5625
Promissory Note Rates (% p.a.) 2/ 26 April 2001			
60 Days	N.T.	10.0000	N.T.
Foreign Interest Rates (% p.a.)			
90-day LIBOR	4.3400	4.3400	4.4100
90-day SIBOR	4.3500	4.3600	4.4100
180-day LIBOR	4.2600	4.2400	4.3200
180-day SIBOR	4.2700	4.2500	4.3500

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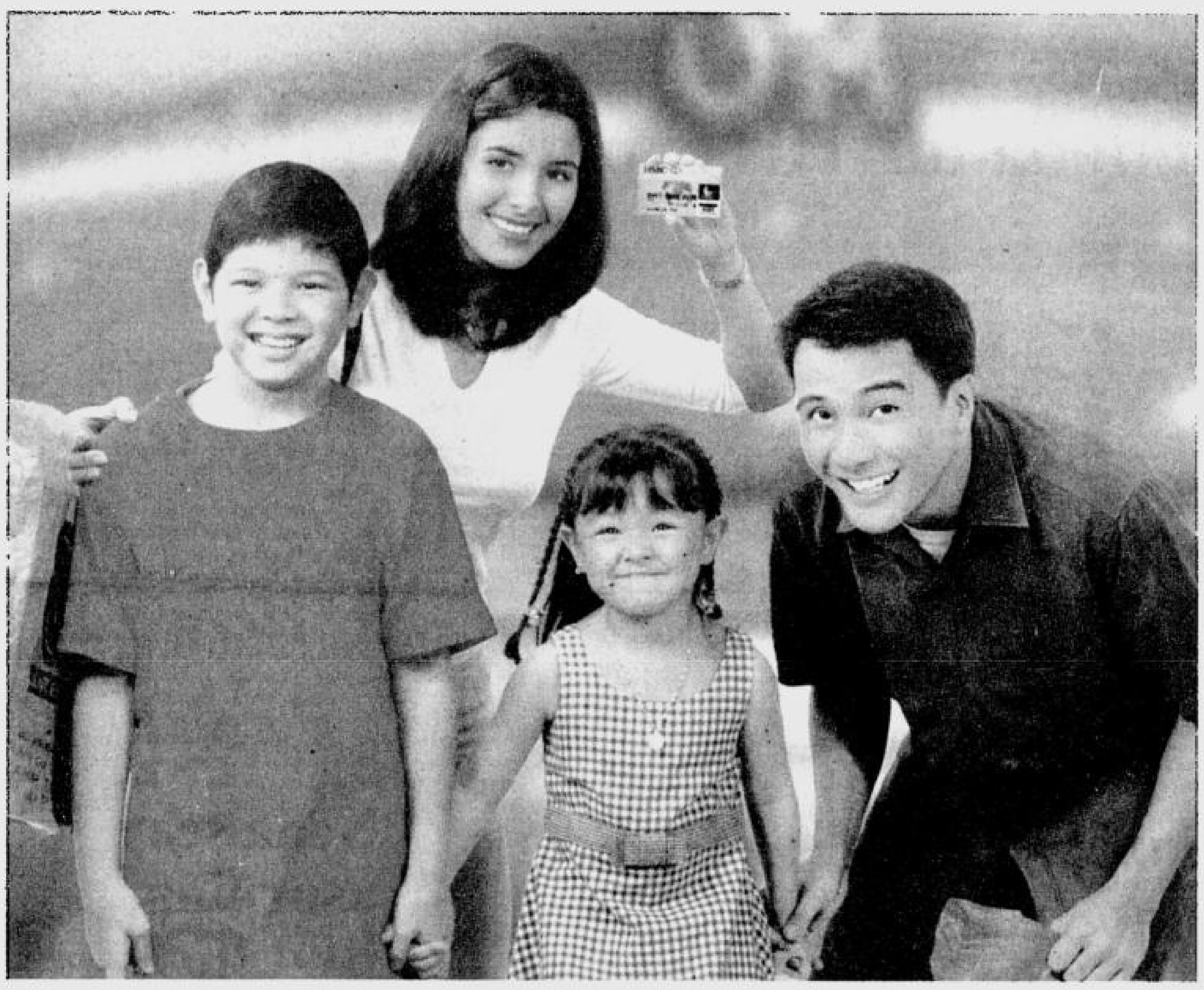

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WG&A to reorganize, convert common shares into preferred

DORIS C. DUMLAO

SHIPPING firm William, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. said yesterday it planned to convert a portion of its common shares into redeemable preferred shares.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, WG&A said the conversion of the common shares into redeemable preferred shares would give stockholders more value for their shares since it would provide liquidity for their investments.

"WG&A management believes that the conversion of the common shares into redeemable preferred shares will give the stockholders more value for their shares since it provides liquidity for their investment," WG&A spokesperson Susan Valdez said.

"The stockholders have the option to redeem their investments in a given period at a premium. Management also foresees that this will encourage trading in WG&A shares," she said.

The stock conversion plan is subject to approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company said in a separate disclosure it would seek SEC approval for a plan to undergo a partial reorganization.

Under the reorganization, WG&A's deficit of P647 million as of end-2000 would be wiped out by an additional paid-in surplus of P3.9 billion.

WG&A shares are hardly traded at the Philippine Stock Exchange. Its price closed at P2 the last time these were traded on March 21 this year.

Analysts said the use of the P3.9-billion paid-in surplus derived from its initial public offering in 1995 was merely an accounting trick involving the reclassification of equity account from paid-in surplus applied to retained earnings.

As the company's retained earnings were currently in the red, analysts said it could not issue dividends to wipe out the deficit so it had to use the paid-in surplus to clean up its balance sheets.

William Lines Inc. started operations in 1949 and was listed in 1995 after a three-way merger with Aboitiz Shipping Corp. and Carlos A. Gothong Lines.

It provides the biggest inter-island passenger transport and cargo liner services in containers or breakbulk through a network of more than 30 ports across the Philippines.

WG&A has a wide geographic reach, with full branches in Manila, Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and General Santos.

During the last few years, the company has been adversely affected by lower freight revenues and higher costs from the write-off of insurance receivables, contractual repairs and operations claims.

SM Prime to buy 4 lots for ₱1.6B

RETAILER and mall developer SM Prime Holdings said yesterday its board of directors had approved a plan to acquire four parcels of land in Manila and in neighboring provinces with a total value of P1.58 billion.

The company said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its board approved the purchase of a 40,000-square-meter lot at the San Lazaro Hippodrome in Manila for P610.2 million.

It will also purchase another 19,295-square-meter lot in Parañaque at a cost of P270 million.

SM Prime will also acquire a 130,282-square-meter lot along a major highway in Bulacan for P488.56 million and another 142,208.5-square-meter lot for P214.55 million in Pangasinan.

The company said it was setting aside P4 billion for capital spending this year on land acquisition, expansion of existing malls and new malls under development.

The company is currently operating 10 malls in Metro Manila and in key cities in the provinces. It expects to open two malls this year and the next.

SM Prime was unchanged at P7, recovering from a low of P6.80. The main stock index fell 1.44 percent to 1,416.79 points.

On Thursday, SM Prime said it had decided to slow down the development of its 530,000-square-meter "Mall of Asia" project to free up cash reserves for mall developments outside the capital region.

SM Investments Corp. chief financial officer Jose Sio said the master plan for the Mall of Asia was revised to trim construction costs to P2.5 billion from P7.5 billion.

SM Prime executive vice president Hans Sy said the cash savings would be used to put up malls outside Metro Manila.

SM Prime earlier said an investment in a new property venture being set up by Belle Corp. was being eyed by the SM group of companies, not SM Prime itself.

"SM Prime Holdings is not involved in the investment or a planned joint venture with Belle Corp. The said investment and planned joint venture is being undertaken by the other member companies of the SM group," SM Prime said in a disclosure to the PSE.

The disclosure did not elaborate further.

On Monday, Belle said it was spinning off some of its major property assets into a new subsidiary and would be seeking strategic investors for the business.

One report named SM Prime as the firm seeking to become a strategic investor and to forge a joint venture partnership with Belle. *Reuters*

La Tondeña unveils expansion plans

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc., a unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., has unveiled a four-pronged expansion strategy to compensate for the big chunk of business it has lost following its divestment from the fast-growing non-liquor business.

"We will continue to break new ground by speedily developing an expanded product portfolio, exploring domestic and regional markets, and venturing into new areas of businesses within our core competence and management strengths," La Tondeña chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. said during a stockholders' meeting yesterday.

Foremost in the strategy, he said, was to venture into a portfolio of new products aligned with the group's manufacturing processes, infrastructures and distribution channels, including:

- Condiments—vinegar, a P2 billion industry; catsup, P3 billion business; "vetsin" (monosodium glutamate), P2 billion; and soy sauce, P3 billion—since raw materials for these products include alcohol tails and other outputs from alcohol processing;
- High-growth segments in the liquor business, like alcocops (alcoholic soda) and brandy, which have a combined industry revenue of P2 billion; and,
- Distribution of red and white wines, a growing line in the alcohol business, with an estimated industry value of P1 billion.

Investors had been selling down La Tondeña shares in the stock market after it was announced that its non-liquor businesses, including newly acquired Sugarland Beverage Corp.—of which 49 percent was owned by parent company San Miguel—would be transferred to Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

While the $141-million deal would lead to huge cash proceeds for La Tondeña, the market was concerned that the loss of its non-liquor business would impinge on the beverage company's long-term growth prospects.

Despite this loss of business, La Tondeña was still expected to chalk up a 20-percent growth in profits this year from P1.35 billion in 2000, company officials said.

Another area of growth, Cojuangco said, would be in the acquisition of other local brands.

Local brokerage ATR Kim Eng Securities, in a recent study on La Tondeña said: "From a domestic perspective, La Tondeña can consolidate the industry either by buying out Tanduay Holdings Inc., the only other major player in the hard liquor industry, or by acquiring smaller niche players such as Gilbey's Gin, Emperador Brandy or even novelty liquor products such as Malice (flavored liquor) or Two Dogs (hard lemonade). La Tondeña seems more inclined toward the latter as Tanduay's market capitalization of P18.34 billion is well outside La Tondeña's radar screen."

Cojuangco said a third area of growth were offshore markets, including Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Malaysia and parts of Indonesia.

"Given our mandate to seek new regional markets, we are now accelerating efforts to penetrate the Asia Pacific, with very encouraging results. In Thailand alone, we secured initial orders for 50,000 cases of La Tondeña Manila Rum in February, which was increased to 150,000 cases in just 45 days," he said.

"While we realize we will need greater volumes to create a felt impact on our revenues, we are confident that these markets will provide a new platform of growth over the long term," Cojuangco said.

Cojuangco said La Tondeña would try to grab a bigger market in southern Philippines, where it only had a 21-percent market share and had not been able to gain headway against rival Tanduay Holdings Inc.

"We will continue to assert our presence in Luzon, even as we concentrate more of our attention and resources into getting a bigger share of Visayas and Mindanao. In the first quarter, two new products were launched primarily for our Southern Philippines markets. Vino Kulafu 35 and GSM Blue are now generating much consumer excitement in these regions," he said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Choice of Equitable PCI Bank president divides Go family

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE GO family, majority shareholder of Equitable PCI Bank Inc., is divided over who should lead the bank, with one side of the family supporting Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s Deogracias Vistan and the other siding with one of their own, acting president Edilberto Javier.

Persons familiar with the situation said some Equitable PCI Bank officers were considering resigning should the board hire Vistan as bank president, replacing Wilfrido Vergara, who opted to retire. That prospect, they said, had been a demoralizing factor within the bank.

Equitable PCI Bank chair Antonio Go was believed to have invited Vistan to join the bank as president.

A source said other members of the family did not agree with this move and were, in fact, supporting Javier's appointment as permanent president of Equitable PCI Bank.

Vistan was said to have the support of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Social Security System, which owns the second largest number of shares in Equitable PCI Bank next to the Go family.

The BSP and SSS believe Vistan will give the bank a fresh image after suffering a credibility crisis at the height of ousted President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial.

One source averred that BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura had already advised Vistan to appoint in his management team a former executive of the Philippine Commercial International Bank and a ranking officer of Equitable PCI Bank.

Buenaventura himself was president of PCIBank before it merged with Equitable Banking Corp. to form Equitable PCI Bank.

The source said some members of the Go family were looking for ways to pay off a P30-billion emergency loan extended by the BSP to Equitable PCI Bank to lessen the government's influence in the way the bank was being managed.

The central bank has reportedly said it will refuse Equitable PCI Bank's request to restructure unless P10 billion is pumped into the bank and a new management takes over.

In an interview, Vistan confirmed that he was invited by the Go family and the SSS to assume the presidency of Equitable PCI Bank.

"I think I cannot deny that the shareholders approached me to explore this possibility of my going there and taking over the management, but it's premature to make any statement given they have made no formal or definite offer," Vistan told the INQUIRER.

He said he was "examining this possibility (accepting the post) as an interesting professional challenge but that, also, there were 'certain stockholder issues' that the shareholders needed to work out among themselves before anything could be firmed up."

SSS executive vice president Horace Templo said contrary to what GSIS president Winston Garcia was claiming, the Go family had committed to infuse the proportionate share of funds the bank planned to raise from stockholders.

The board of Equitable PCI Bank has approved a plan to raise P5 billion to P10 billion in capital through convertible bonds to be issued to current shareholders.

Vergara, Javier and several other top senior bank managers were a team of executives in Far East Bank and Trust Co. who were pirated by former Equitable PCI Bank chair George Go to join Equitable Bank in the mid-1990s.

Neda seen usurping BOI turf

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority is reportedly keen on usurping the Board of Investments' current role of determining which industries, both domestic and export-oriented firms, should get fiscal incentives.

A government source said Neda wanted to assume the BOI's job of listing down the investment areas in the Investment Priorities Plan to maximize the government's incentives program by ensuring that only activities with the biggest economic impact would get these perks.

Neda was recently tapped by President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the proposed 2001 IPP along with the BOI with an eye on trimming down the number of investment areas to give the government's promotion program more focus.

Ms Macapagal previously criticized the IPP as sorely lacking in focus with too many investment areas being promoted and without consideration of the government's ability to provide these incentives.

The source said that by next year, Neda was eyeing to have a more active role in the annual drafting of the IPP by participating in the process immediately right from the start by taking over the authority to choose which areas should be pushed.

This would mean a diminished role for the BOI, which would have to promote areas endorsed by Neda.

The source said the BOI has so far resisted the covetous move of Neda, which is currently led by Economic Secretary Dante Canlas, who used to be a professor of the President.

The source said Neda lacked the "business acumen" needed to determine which investment areas were the most potent, unlike the BOI, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, which was directly involved with both prospective and existing investors.

But Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, a "recycled" Cabinet member of the Estrada administration, has denied the rumored tug-of-war between the trade department and Neda over the IPP.

Grand Plaza Hotel offers to buy back shares, reduce capital stock

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp., owner and operator of the Heritage Hotel Manila, approved yesterday a program to buy back shares from the market and reduce its authorized capital stock from P1.5 billion to P1.27 billion.

The buyback program was set at an attractive price of P50, much higher than its most recent price at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Grand Plaza shares closed at P30 when it was last traded on Feb. 27 this year.

The company also disclosed that its board of directors had approved a resolution to negotiate for a five-year extension of its management agreement with CDL Hotels (Philippines) Corp.

A shares buyback is a usual practice among companies with sufficient retained earnings that believe their shares have been undervalued by the market.

Among the companies that recently have been actively buying back shares are Jollibee Foods Corp., Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., San Miguel Corp., RFM Corp. and Megaworld Corp.

"The buyback will be funded from the unrestricted retained earnings. The buyback offer is to purchase one share out of 8 shares held by each stockholder at a price of P50," the company said.

"The buyback offer is a one-time offer and will not be extendible or re-offered after the expiration of the offer period on May 28," it said.

The company also approved a reduction in its authorized capital stock for the purpose of retiring some 23 million treasury shares.

The treasury-held shares would translate into 127 shares with a par value of P10 each.

Listed in 1992, Grand Plaza is principally engaged in hotel, recreation and tourism services. It is a subsidiary of CDL Hotels International Ltd., a member of the Hong Leong group of Singapore.

Its flagship business, Heritage Hotel along Roxas Boulevard, is a deluxe hotel with 467 rooms. The company also has a 40-percent stake in Harbour Land Corp.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, April 27, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.6	33,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	74	75.5	74	75.5	127,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42	42	42	42	4,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	216	212	213	56,450
Philippine National Bank	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	75,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	200
Manulife Financial Corp.	1255	1260	1255	1260	6,450
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	960	960	960	1,540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	37	37.5	37	37.5	12,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	360,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	680	680	260
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	685	675	685	59,530
Ivantage Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	80,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.042	0.043	0.04	0.042	115,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41.5	41	41.5	11,800
Manila Electric Co. B.	54	55	54	54.5	189,500
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.74	1.74	4,029,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.22	1.26	1.22	1.26	3,349,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	630,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.5	13.75	1,023,300
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	30	30	29.5	30	106,300
RFM Corp.	0.96	0.98	0.94	0.98	1,990,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	45	44.5	45	67,500
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50.5	49.5	49.5	139,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	2,652,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	600,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	2,200
A. Soriano Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	120,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	12.75	9.4	12.75	700
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.44	4,774,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	160,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	1,090,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.98	126,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	22.5	22.75	22.25	22.75	123,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Ionics Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	3,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	235,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.74	0.75	5,300,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	360,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,380,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	50,000
Music Corp.	2.46	2.48	2.46	2.48	93,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Prime Gaming Mgmt.Corp.	15	15	15	15	1,076,000
Pryce Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	250,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.25	1,420,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.45	0.41	0.43	6,520,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	130,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	40,000
Manila Jockey Club	20	20	20	20	3,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.2	5	4.2	5	209,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	37.5	37.5	37	37.5	261,300
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	470	470	470	470	1,500
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	660	680	660	680	960
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	127,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	4,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.6	3,127,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	80,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	960,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.08	15,026,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	700,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	36,440,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	7	6.8	7	13,621,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
MINING					
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	107,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	4,650,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	840,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	355,740	34,984,830.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	159,979,450	167,011,890.00
PRO	70,954,000	174,659,500.00
Mining	114,780,000	1,385,600.00
OIL	23,640,000	275,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	369,709,190	398,317,020.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	600.92	UP 0.14
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,927.75	DOWN 22.57
PRO	570.79	DOWN 10.14
Mining	1,154.32	UP 3.34
OIL	1.48	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	734.32	DOWN 6.21
Composite	1,420.36	DOWN 17.14

NO. OF ADVANCES: 13; NO. OF DECLINES: 42; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 29; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 1,980

CURRENCIES

Apr. 27, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.106562	1.000000	50.7640
Japan	Yen	0.008987	0.008122	0.4123
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594777	1.441200	73.1611
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141887	0.128223	6.5091
Switzerland	Franc	0.649848	0.587268	29.8121
Canada	Dollar	0.717382	0.648298	32.9102
Singapore	Dollar	0.608737	0.550116	27.9261
Australia	Dollar	0.562563	0.508388	25.8078
Bahrain	Dinar	2.935334	2.652661	134.6597
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295076	0.266660	13.5367
Brunei	Dollar	0.607000	0.548546	27.8464
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000093	0.000084	0.0043
Thailand	Baht	0.024229	0.021896	1.1115
UAE	Dirham	0.301310	0.272294	13.8227
Korea	Won	0.000841	0.000760	0.0386
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.903700	45.8754
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.462054	23.4557
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137768	6.9937
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410081	20.8174
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.065674	3.3339
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022402	1.1372
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000467	0.0237
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.151991	7.7157
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004508	0.2288
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005431	0.2757
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022402	1.1372
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.147462	58.2498

DISCLOSURES

GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 18, 10:30 a.m., at the Heritage Hotel Manila in Pasay City. The company said its board authorized the negotiation of a five-year extension of its management agreement with **CDL Hotels (Philippines) Corp.**

* * *

ITOGON-SUYOC Mines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 25, 4 p.m., at the Antipolo Ballroom, Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City.

* * *

AYALA Corp.'s 5-percent convertible preferred class "B" shares will be delisted and will no longer be tradable starting May 2.

* * *

SM Prime Holdings Inc. has elected the following officers: Henry Sy Sr., chair and president; Jose Cuisia Jr., vice chair; and Teresita Sy, executive vice president.

* * *

ELECTED to the board of **Global Business Bank Inc.** were Charles Cheung Wai Bun, Jovencio Cinco, Edmund Gaisano, Robin King, Florencio Mallare, Ramon Miranda, John Ng, Edmundo San Juan, Henry Sun, Tsutoniu, Tezuka, Gen Tomii, Alfred Vy Ty, Mary Vy Ty, Rufo Venus and Samuel Yap.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc. has elected the following directors: Richard Setchell, Eusebio Tanco, Richard Barclay, Genya Iwasaki, Douglas Luym, lawyer Nilo Pena, Arturo Lopez, Ramon Atayde, Capt. Roger Davies and Remy Tiguio. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

IMF sees no recession, only growth slowdown

WASHINGTON—An abrupt slowdown in the global economy will leave growth at just 3.2 percent in 2001, but a worldwide recession is unlikely, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

"It is clear that global growth is slowing more than what had been anticipated or is desirable," IMF research director Michael Mussa said in unveiling the latest edition of the twice-yearly World Economic Outlook.

For 2001 as a whole, the IMF slashed its October forecast for global growth by a full percentage point to 3.2 percent, down from 4.8 percent in 2000.

"We are clearly looking at a substantial and broadly distributed slowdown in global economic growth this year, but not—or at least not yet—at a likely global recession," Mussa told reporters.

The report maintained that an early rebound from the sluggish pace of activity depends on a pickup in US and European momentum and reform in Japan.

The IMF also warned that an anemic global economy could impose a punishing burden on the world's poor, notably through a fall in commodity prices, and renewed an appeal to rich countries to increase aid flows and to scrap trade barriers against exports from developing nations.

The report foresaw dramatic declines in the economies of major industrialized nations and urged policymakers in the United States and Europe to keep an open mind about interest rate cuts.

Mussa said the US Federal Reserve had acted "appropriately" in aggressively cutting interest rates, but that the European Central Bank, which has refused to cut rates, was allowing the euro zone to create a drag on global economic activity.

Europe "is actually making a negative contribution vis-a-vis the rest of the world, and we think they should be able to do somewhat better than that and contribute something positive . . . to growth in the rest of the world," Mussa said.

The downturn is led by the United States, where the IMF sees expansion in gross domestic product (GDP) plunging from a potent 5 percent in 2000 to just 1.5 percent this year, its lowest level in a decade.

In the European Union, growth should throttle back to 2.4 percent in 2001 from 3.4 percent while in a still-stagnant Japan, output is seen dwindling to 0.6 percent this year from 1.7 percent last year.

The faltering US economy will, in addition, dampen growth in newly industrialized Asian economies, such as Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore, where output is expected to expand 5 percent after 5.8 percent in 2000.

Some emerging economies are expected to see growth hold up somewhat better, the IMF said. For example, the countries of South America are expected to grow 3.7 percent this year compared with 3.2 percent last year.

Certain Asian countries that depend on exports to the US may take a more severe hit, the report said.

But near-term prospects are expected to brighten overall, according to the IMF, as "activity picks up in the United States during the second half of the year, while growth in Europe remains relatively robust and the recovery in Japan resumes in 2002." *AFP*

Thai PM seeks to boost economic growth past 3%

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said yesterday his government would strive for higher growth this year than the minimum 2 to 3 percent now being forecast.

The Thai central bank on Thursday cut growth projections to 2.5-4.0 percent, due to weakening exports as a result of the United States and Japan's economic slowdown. Thailand's economy is heavily reliant on exports to those countries.

Yet, Thaksin said, he doesn't want to see the Thai currency, the baht, continue to depreciate as a result of the weakening economy, which would make exports more competitive.

Thailand has never fully recovered from the 1997 Asian financial crisis that began when it devalued the baht. Earlier this month, the baht hit a three-year low and is now trading above 45 to a dollar.

"We know that some say the economy might grow by only 2 percent to 3 percent, but we will try to do better than that," he said.

In a speech to a regional United Nations meeting on Monday, Thaksin called on Asian countries to "look inward" to their own strengths, and develop alternative development models to those of the US and Japan which he called "outdated."

Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said the comments were misinterpreted and the government would not take protectionist measures.

"I want to stress that rumors that we might close the country (through capital controls or protectionist measures) are misleading information. This government supports free trade," Somkid told reporters. *AP*

WORSE-THAN-EXPECTED

Japan ind'l output falls 2.1%

TOKYO—Japanese industrial production fell 2.1 percent in March from February, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said yesterday, indicating that weak overseas demand for Japanese goods is hurting the economy here.

The fall was much larger than that expected by economists surveyed by the Dow Jones News service. They estimated on average that industrial production decreased 1.1 percent from the prior month after adjustment for seasonal factors.

For the January-March quarter, output dropped 3.7 percent, declining on a quarterly basis for the first time since the April-June 1999 quarter.

The ministry also said it expects output to fall 0.8 percent in April from March and then decrease 0.8 percent in May, based on surveys of companies.

METI downgraded its assessment of output for the fourth consecutive month, saying output is "in a declining trend." In February, METI said output was weakening.

Japan is struggling to emerge from its worst economic slump since World War II, and a nascent recovery has stalled. Manufacturing, led by exports, has been the primary driver of economic growth over the past two years. *AP*

Australian growth forecasts lowered

CANBERRA—In the latest bad economic news for John Howard's beleaguered government, the International Monetary Fund yesterday slashed its forecast for Australian growth to 1.9 percent for 2001.

Published in its latest World Economic Outlook report, the new forecast was well below the IMF's previous estimate of 3.25 percent made just last month.

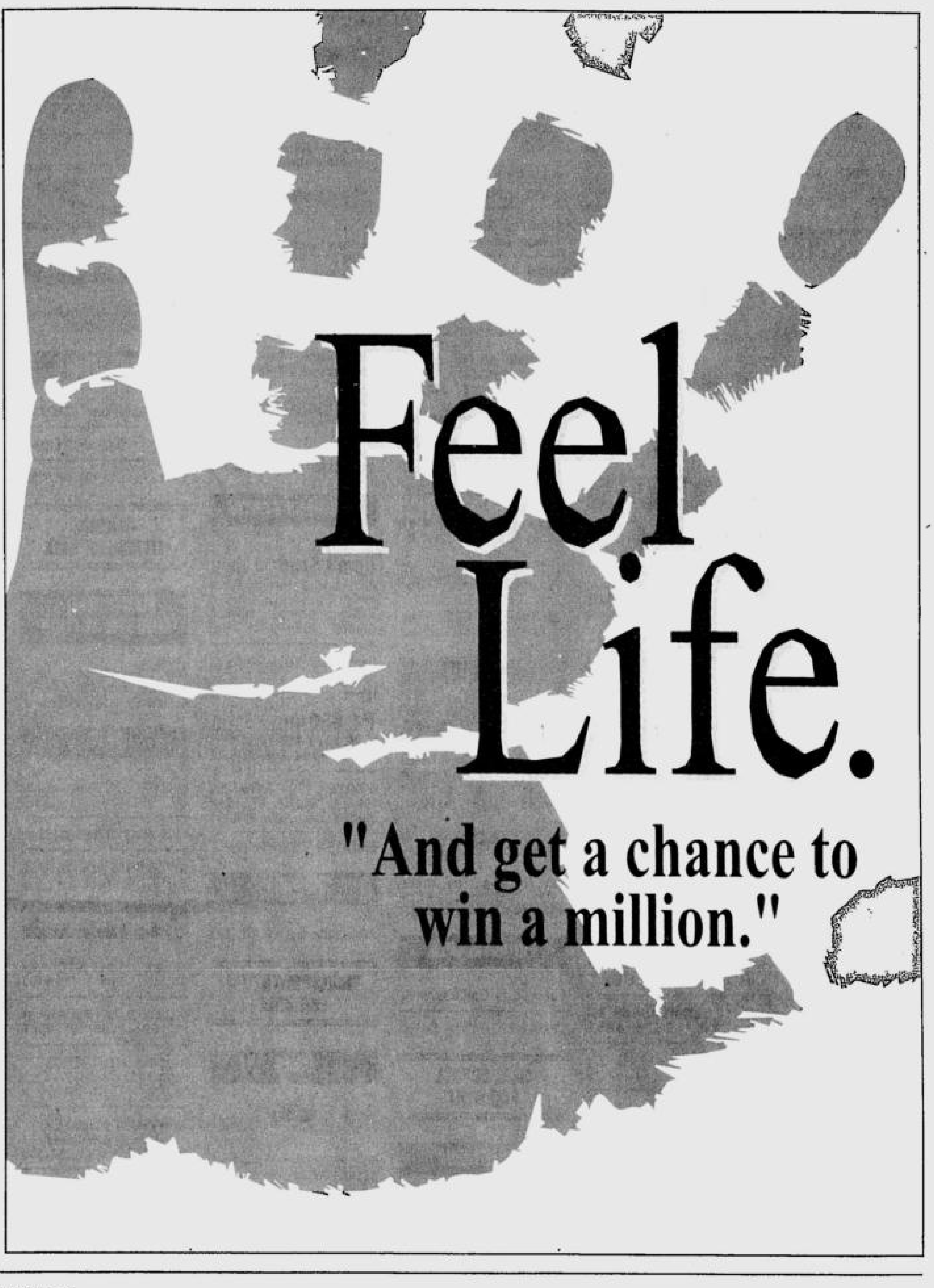
However, the IMF said Australian growth will rebound in 2002 to 3.5 percent, still below its estimate for global growth in 2002 of 3.9 percent.

In a statement, Treasurer Peter Costello, the government's finance minister, said the IMF had forecast growth of 1.9 percent in 2001 against the background of weaker global growth.

"Against the backdrop of a weaker external environment and the temporary weakness in the domestic housing sector, the IMF has forecast economic growth in Australia of 1.9 percent in 2001," Costello said.

Costello said the IMF report also suggests the economic rebound in 2002 will be accompanied by low inflation and a decline in the current account deficit.

The IMF report was the latest in a series of bad economic reports that have contributed to a slump in the standing of Howard's government as it prepares to seek a third term at national elections expected in November or December. *AP*



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Day Two is Safari Day. Begin with an early morning drive at the Pilanesburg National Park on-board an open safari vehicle. Uncover the myths from Africa's past at The Lost City. End your day at the golf courses or the casinos of Waterworld.

Day Three takes you to Cape Town. View the Castle of Good Hope, the restored fort of Cape Town, the Houses of Parliament and the historical Malay-Quarter. Have an exhilarating cable car ride to the Table Mountain and enjoy the scenic view from the top.

Day Four brings you to the wonders of Worcester and Montagu. Be awed by the folded sandstone mountain range of Little Karoo. Then, move on to Oudtshoorn, "Feather Capital of the World," and visit the ostrich farm.

Marvel at the beauty of nature on Day Five. First stop is the Cango Caves, one of the world's great natural wonders. Next is a steam train ride to Wilderness on the way to Knysna for easy shopping or simply basking in the fantastic view of the Lagoon.

Enjoy a relaxing and leisurely cruise to Knysna Heads and Featherbed Nature Reserve on Day Six. Then, journey back to Cape Town for a visit to the Post Office Tree and the Diaz Maritime Museum. In the evening, there is Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, a commercial harbor set in the midst of a huge entertainment venue with pubs, specialty shops, craft markets and theaters.

Day Seven is the Cape Peninsula Tour which includes the Atlantic suburbs of Sea Point, Camps Bay and more. A boat ride to Seal Island, the panoramic Chapman's Peak Drive – one of the world's most scenic marine drives and the lively Cape Of Good Hope Nature Reserve. Visit the penguins at Boulders Beach, delight in the Mineral World gemstone factory. Cap the tour with excellent wine tasting and a cellar tour of the Groot Constancia, the oldest wine estate in the country.

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

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QUEZON CITY

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QUEZON CITY

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QUEZON CITY

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QUEZON CITY

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MITSUBISHI

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97Lncr GLXi 263T Neg8382015

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3010068

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Ofc. staff 9134470 Nell

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. Ofc.Staff 9134470-Nicol

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or call 823-2392

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Real Estate Seminar Licensure Start May 4 REBAP QC Call 743-9094

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VICTORIA O. LUSTRE has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. #314; Page#63; Book # 455; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Joel G. Gordola PDI-April 21, 28 & May 5, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
The following shares of stock have been declared lost : BPI certificate nos. 129567/129568

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Congratulations to the **New Licensed Mechanical Engr.** who have passed the examination which was given by the **PRC** on **April 7-8-9, 2001** are the following:

Welfredo R. Agreb
Chito L. Bautista
Luichito L. Cabel
Vector M. Edralin
Jessesario A. Marquez
Oliver C. Pastor
Fredie A. Quezon

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

QUEZON CITY
NOTICE OF ALLOCATION OF 30,000 MT IMPORTED WHITE CORNGRAINS

Based on the Notice to All Interested White Corngrain Millers (Central Visayas-Region 7) published in two (2) daily newspapers last March 31, April 1 and 2, 2001, hereunder are the allocations of imported white corngrains per cornmiller as determined by the National Food Authority (NFA).

PROVINCE	CORNMILLER	REQUESTED VOL. (MT)	ALLOCATED VOL. (MT)
CEBU	GOSOTTO MILLING	200	200
	MACTAN MILLING	1,100	1,100
	CEBU CORN PRODUCTS	1,100	1,100
	CAPITOL MILLING	1,300	1,300
	GOODWILL MILLING	1,100	1,100
	MABUHAY MILLING	1,100	1,100
	EAST VISAYAN MILLING	1,300	1,300
	CEBU FILIPINAS MILLING	1,300	1,300
	VISAYAN CORN MILL CO.	1,300	1,300
	SANDY MILLING	1,100	1,100
	ATLAS CORN MILL	1,300	1,300
	FEDAS TRADERS, INC.	1,100	1,100
	EVERGREEN MILLING	600	600
	GOOD HOPE MILLING	1,100	1,100
NEGROS OR.	LLOYD D. LIMKAICHONG	150	150
	FERNANDO K. SOLON	250	250
	NENITA MARQUITA	150	150
	JOHANSING DY	300	300
	EUFRATES CREDO	450	450
	EXUPERIO C. LLTANAL	50	50
	ROBERTO SY/DURICO	3,000	3,000
	JIMMY D. HO	50	50
	ELORDE BELTRAN	45	45
	TOTAL	19,445	19,445

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Asst. Administrator and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--April 26, 27 & 28, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Office of the Secretary of National Defense (OSND) invites interested parties to prequalify and bid for the following equipment:

Computer equipment:
1. 33 units - Desktop Pentium III 600 MHZ
2. 5 units - Notebook Computer Intel Pentium III 400MHZ
3. 3 units - LCD/Multi-media Projector with screen and carrying casing
4. 3 units - Electronic Bundy Clock (Fingerprint scanner)
5. 12 units - Airconditioning unit, split type, 2.5HP
6. 18 units - Airconditioning unit, package type, 3 tons
7. Servicing of Airconditioning units

Bidders are requested to submit the following documents/requirements for prequalification on or before 8 May 2001 at 10:00 at the Procurement Branch, Office of the Administrative Services, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, telephone number 911-8118.

1. SEC/DTI Registration
2. Articles of Incorporation/Partnership
3. Latest Business/License Permit (2000)
4. Audited Financial Statements (attach ITR) for the last two years
5. VAT Registration Certificate
6. List of clients for the last two (2) years together with address, telephone number, contact person.

Inquiries for the details and particulars on bid documents, specifications and other details shall also be provided during office hours at the Office of the Administrative Services, OSND. Pre-bid conference shall be held on 8 May 2001 at 2:00 PM, OASPP Conference Room, Room 206, DND, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bid proposals shall be opened on 17 May 2001, at 10:00 AM at the same venue.

The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the OSND Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (OSND PBAC).

(Sgd.) **MGEN. RUBEN F. CIRON (RET)**
Chairman. Bid & Award Committee

(PDI--April 28 & 30, 2001)

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT COMMAND
Clark Air Base, Philippine Air Force
(Air Force City)
Angeles City, Pampanga

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Air Force invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the IRAN (Inspection and Repair as Necessary) of One Aero Commander Aircraft.

The Pre-qualification Conference will be held on **18 May 2001** at 0830 AM at the Air Logistics and Support Command Conference Room, Air Force City, Clark Field, Pampanga.

Bidding schedule shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.

The Philippine Air Force reserves the right to reject all bids, waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please contact MAJOR HENRY B. SALVADOR, Tel. No. **0919-2353229** ALSC, Air Force City, Clark Field, Pampanga.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN N. GALZOTE**
Colonel, PAF(GSC)
CHAIRMAN, PAFSBAC

(PDI - Apr 28. 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
INDUSTRY & INVESTMENTS BUILDING
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MAKATI CITY

SUPPORT

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895-40-24
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895-39-87

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of MILLENNIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION with office address at FAI Administration Office, Alabang, Muntinlupa City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended for VSAT Satellite Based Telecommunications Network Project at a capacity of 100 remote sites and with proposed project site Nationwide has been officially accepted on April 16, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) C.O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI – April 28, 2001)

Department of Health
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
FCC, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, 1770 Philippines
Fax No. (632) 842-2828, 842-2245 * Tel. Nos. (632) 807-2628 to 32
Direct Line 809-7599 E-mail: mail_to@ritm.gov.ph

PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING FOR THE PROVISION OF ENGINEERING MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CY 2001

BID BULLETIN NO. 1

Please be informed that the bidding for Engineering and Maintenance Services which was advertised last April 7, 8 and 9, 2001 has been extended. The new schedule is as follows:

May 2	4:00 P.M.	Deadline of securing of bid forms
May 4	4:00 P.M.	Submission of bid forms and written comments for discussion during the pre-bid conference
May 7	1:00 P.M.	Pre-bid Conference
May 11	10:00 A.M.	Bid Opening

Bid Forms may be obtained from the Property and Supply Department, anytime during office hours.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO M. OLVEDA, M.D., CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI--April 28, 29& 30, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Professional Regulation Commission hereby invites interested SUPPLIERS to submit sealed bids for the printing and supply of materials for PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

Pre-bid conference will be held at the PRC Conference Room on **May 14, 2001** at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Failure to attend the same will be a ground for disqualification to participate in the bidding.

Pre-qualification requirements and bidding documents shall be available at the Office of the Assistant Commissioner, Second Floor, PRC Main Building from **May 2-4, 2001**.

The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

All bid proposals must be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total offer in the form of Manager's Check or GSIS bond.

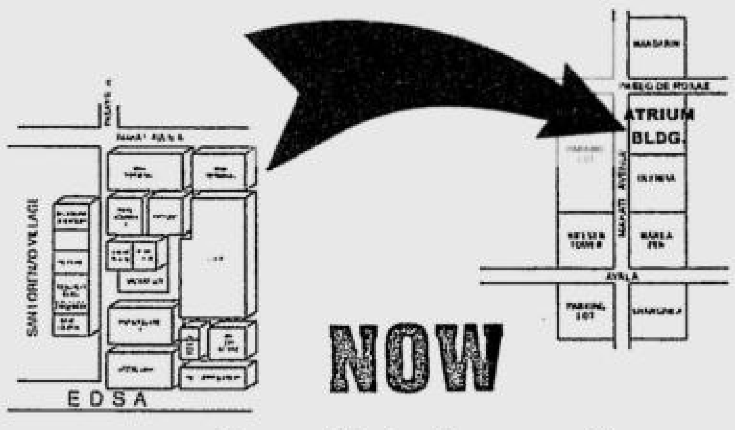
The PRC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any defect or informality therein and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government. It likewise assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ALFONSO G. ABAD**
Acting Chairperson

(PDI – Apr. 28 & 29, 2001)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Makati Branch



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811-4012 / 892-5578

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID FOR SURVEYORSHIP

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be holding a pre-bidding and bidding conference among accredited surveyors on **May 07, 2001** and **May 09, 2001**, respectively at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the disport surveyorship of the following commodities:

LOT	COMMODITY	QTY.(IN MT)	DISPORT	DELIVERY SCHEDULE/ETA
A	US WHITE CORN	30,000, 10% MOLSO	CEBU	MAY 30
B	RICE	125,000, 10% MOLSO	MANILA	WITHIN MAY/JUNE/JULY

Only qualified surveyors and/or their authorized representatives shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Issuance of pre-qualification requirements shall be available from **April 26-30, 2001** (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) at Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Q.C. Interested new applicants for accreditation shall have until **May 03, 2001** (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) to submit requirements for accreditation. Further, NFA accredited surveyors must update existing records as maybe deemed necessary not later than 1700 HRS, **May 03, 2001** to qualify in said bidding. Results of accreditation will be announced during the pre-bidding proper.

Sealed offers must be submitted between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM on the bidding date accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 5% of total offer in the form of Cashier's, Manager's check, bank or demand draft in PHP which must be drawn from a reputable bank in Metro Manila. Accredited offerors may submit price quotes either for LOT A and/or LOT B.

The bidding terms and conditions shall be available at the Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor starting **04 May 2001** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Bid Form will be available on **May 07, 2001** after the pre-bidding conference at Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Avenue, Q.C. (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00 at the Directorate for Treasury, Budget and Fund Management, Matimyas Bldg., 8th Flr., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

Opening of bids will start exactly at 2:00 PM of the bidding date.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Assistant Administrator
and Chairman, Bidding Committee

(PDI--April 26, 27 & 28, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(National Power Corporation)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLRC-2001-05A

The Southern Luzon Regional Center (SLRC), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: MAY 21, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	CONTINUOUS FORMS	3AFS01-012
A2	1 LOT	PH ELECTRODES	3BAC01-218 3BAC01-224
		DATE OF BIDDING: MAY 22, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	2 SETS	CHART RECORDER (LINAX 4000L)	3BAC00-241
B2	1 LOT	PARTS OF PUMP (ACWBP)	3BAC00-749
B3	15 PCS	CHECKERED PLATE (SUS 304)	3BAC01-273
B4	8 PCS	SOLENOID COIL	3BAC00-623
B5	1 LOT	GLOBE VALVES (ANGLE)	3MAK00-618
B6	1 LOT	COUPLING (VICTUALIC, SUS 304)	3MAK00-735
B7	2 PCS	PICK-UP COIL (DIFFERENTIAL EXPANSION)	2MAK01-108
		DATE OF BIDDING: MAY 23, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	AIR COMPRESSOR & PARTS ("KAJI")	3MAK00-728
C2	1 LOT	CAPACITOR POTENTIAL DEVICE ("TOSHIBA") MAGNA-RESISTOR VALVE	3TIW01-009
C3	2 SETS	FAN BLADE ("HUDSON TUF-LITE")	3BAC01-121
C4	1 LOT	J.O. RESTORATION / RECONDITIONING OF CTF MOTOR ("RELIANCE")	3MAK01-150
C5	1 LOT	J.O. REPAIR/REHABILITATION OF WATER-COOLED CHILLER	3MAK01-038
C6	2 UNITS	J.O. MAJOR OVERHAUL OF CONTROL VALVES OF TGPP UNIT #3	3TIW01-008

Note: For Schedule C6 - Pre Bid Conference will be held on May 8, 2001, 9:00 AM at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting May 3, 2001. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than May 11, 2001 before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's / Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R. D. RAMAS
MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION

(PDI – April 28 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 1

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 01-004 (PB)

The Generation Company 1 (GENCO 1), with office of NPC Old Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, invites interested NPC accredited suppliers to bid on the items listed below. The opening will be conducted on May 18 & 21, 2001 at 10:00 AM, 1st floor, Bidding Room. Price quotation in Philippine Peso is preferred.

DATE OF BIDDING -- MAY 18, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
0104-012-TES	3 pcs., Grinding Roller (Conical Type), Material ASTM A532 high chrome, cast iron, steel alloy characterized by high abrasion resistance, Spare roller for Pulverizer
0104-013-TES	1 pc., Turbine Room Sump Pump, Type TSE-VS, Capacity 20 t/n, SS3600 rpm, Casing & Impeller Stainless Cast Steel (SCS14) & Shaft Stainless Steel (SUS316) including accessories
0104-014	1 lot, Transfer completely the fuel content (about 3 million liters of heavy oil) of FELS 1 Fuel Barge in the Pier area to BCFTPP Heavy Oil Tank using existing barge equipment and plant's heavy oil pipeline. Pre-bid conference is scheduled on May 8, 2001, 2:00 PM at the NPC Old Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Qualified suppliers/contractors must attend the said conference.
0104-015-TES	1030 cyls., Supply and delivery of Hydrogen Gas, Industrial grade (contents only), for approx. twelve (12) months open contract from June 2001 to May 2002
0104-016-TES	5 pcs., Microjet Recorder, 100mm, Model PHC33003-ABIYV & 180 mm, Models PHA 98003 - EB2YV & PHA 66003 - EB2YV and 1 lot Recorder Accessories, Manufactured by Fuji Electric
0104-017	1 pc., Pneumatic Cylinder, Model A81B2B, Pressure 250 psi, Bore 4", Rod Dia. 1", Stroke 12", Ref. SN 93078895, Manufactured by Miller Fluid Power and with 6 sets Repair Kit
0104-018-TES	1 lot, S/P for SPEC. 2000 Foxboro Control System, Manufactured by Foxboro Corporation, consisting of 6 items.
0104-019	6 pcs., Sheet Plate, mild steel, sizes 1" x 4' x 8' & 3/4" x 4' x 8', free of deformation, indentation and rusts
0104-020-TES	1 lot, S/P for Gravimetric Coal Feeder, Manufactured by Stock Equipment Corporation, consisting of 19 items
0104-033-TES	1 job, Supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment supplies and supervision for the complete rebuilding and repair of shaft sleeve for four (4) units grinding rollers of double roll grinders. Pre-bid conference is scheduled on May 9, 2001, 2:00 PM at the NPC Old Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Qualified suppliers/contractors must attend the said conference.
0104-034-TES	7 units, Motor Compressor, 10 TR, 230 V, 60 Hz, 3-phase, 1800 rpm, 44.3 FLA, Model (06DA)-A3370DA3200, 15 TR, 460 V, 60 Hz, 3-phase, LRA-173, 30 TR, 460 V, 60 Hz, 3-phase, 235 LRA, Model 4DRS 3000-FSD-800 and 35 TR, 460 V, 60 Hz, 3-phase, 260 LRA, Model No. 6DKI-3500-FSD-204
0104-035	1 lot, Various Iron Work Tools for Ash Handling Maintenance, consisting of 18 items
0104-036-TES	1 lot, Operation Training Simulator (OTS) Spare Electronic Module & Accessories, Manufactured by G.E. Fanuc, consisting of 11 items
0104-037-TES	4 pcs., Booster Relay, Model IL 100-02 and Air Filter Regulator, Model AW411-04, Manufactured by SMC
0104-038-TES	2 pcs., Booster Relay, Model 4514, Manufactured by Fairchild
0104-039-TES	1 lot, Various Boiler Tubes, consisting of 12 items
0104-040-TES	1 job, Supply, install and commission of one (1) set of TV and Flame Scanner Cooling Air Fan with DC Motor. Pre-bid conference is scheduled on May 7, 2001, 2:00 PM at the NPC Old Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Qualified suppliers/contractors must attend the said conference.

DATE OF BIDDING – MAY 21, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
9909-081	10 pails, Magma Quartz, composition magma quartz particles and formulated reactive liquid resins, for repair/resurfacing of concrete, compressive & flexural strength 9,000 psi, packaging 15 kgs/pail with extra set/pail or magma quartz resins (1.5 kg/set)
0006-020	1 lot, Covering Flux, protective blanket for pure copper and brass alloy melting, packed in approx. 25 kgs/bag, Degassing Tablet, for removal of dissolved hydrogen from melt of copper and copper base alloy, packed in approx. 20 tubes/box at 5 tablet/tube and Deoxidizing Tube, for removal of dissolved oxygen from melt of commercial copper & bronze, packed in approx. 300 tubes/box
0007-044-TES	1 job, Supply of supervision, labor and materials & band new spare parts for the complete repair and reconditioning of one (1) unit Shearing/Slitting machine brand Econo Shear with Serial No. ESC 69026 including all accessories and appurtenances
0010-018	1 lot, Various Medicines, consisting of 22 items
0011-014-TES	8 pcs., Main Controller Card & Multi Ref Select Card, Parts for Condenser & Bearing Cooling Cathodic Protection System Rectifier with 50 pcs. Indicating Light Bulb, Manufactured by Godall Electric, Inc.
0101-007	4 pcs. LES (Node) Transceiver, Model OPT BOX, LBS OPT-V1.0, Type LBS-2CH, Manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. with 15 pcs., DC to DC Converter, Model CX715-24, Brand CR1 & Integrated Circuit (IC), Model DC 9007SN, Brand Hitachi
0101-017	2 units, Desktop Laser Printer, 1200 dpi at least 8 ppm, HP Brand or equivalent, Standard IEEE 1284 Bi-directional parallel interface with compatibility mode, Nibble mode & ECP mode USB 1.0 compliant, including accessories
0101-030-TES	1 lot, Sea Water Jetting Pipes and Fittings for Ash Slurry Pit, consisting of 18 items
0103-024	2 pcs., API Flexseal Inner Ring, Type 304 SS, Temp. limit up to 2000°F, Pressure 900 psi, under ASME B16.20 Resistant to Corrosion, size 840 mm inside dia., 860 mm inner ring, 880 mm outside dia., 3/16" thickness
0103-026-TES	1 lot, S/P for Planetary Gearbox, Model No. VRP 100X Hitachi for HP Mills, Manufactured by Hitachi Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, consisting of 17 items
0103-034-TES	325 MT, Supply, storage and delivery of Hydrochloric Acid, technical grade, for approx. six-month open contract tentatively from June 1 to November 30, 2001
0103-036-TES	1 lot, S/P for Electromatic Relief Valve, Manufactured by Dresser Industries, Alexandra Louisiana, consisting of 24 items
0103-042-TES	1 job, Supply of labor, services and parts/materials for the repair of the defective power supply unit, DC-DC Converter, Type PE 2163/10, Brand Philips (Belgium)
0103-062	1 lot, Various Fuse, Manufactured by Ferraz, Lyon-France, S/P for Low Voltage Switchgear/MCC, consisting of 12 items
0103-065-TES	1 lot, S/P for Gravimetric Feeders, Manufactured by Stock Equipment Corp., consisting of 10 items
0103-066-TES	1 lot, Spare Electronic Module for Main Turbine Supervisory Instrument (TSI) Control System, Type VMDS Monitoring System, Manufactured by CIS Amrein AG, consisting of 19 items
0103-067-TES	2 pcs., Power Supply PC Board Assembly, PN 1D 21232, Ref. SN 518507, Dwg. No. D21232-D, S/P for Gravimetric Coal Feeder, Manufactured by Stock Equipment
0103-068-TES	1 lot, S/P for Control Valve (CV) and Low Pressure Turbine By-Pass Hydraulic Cylinder Assembly of Main Turbine, Manufactured by Toshiba Corporation
0103-070	1 pc., Directional Controlled Solenoid Valve, Model DSHG-06-3C2-R2-A120-5167, Solenoid Controlled Pilot Operated, 120 V AC, 60 Hz, Manufactured by Yuken Kogyo Co., Ltd.

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **April 30, 2001** and may be secured from Materials Management Division during working days from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM upon payment of P25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Sealed bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Bank Draft Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

For further information, please call 527-4861, 527-4873, 527-4892.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Officer-In-Charge
Regional Admin & Financial Services

(PDI – April 28 2001)

BITS & Clips

PAPP annual confab in Cebu

THE PHILIPPINE Academy of Pediatric Pulmonologists will hold its 9th annual convention on Monday, April 30 to May 1, 2001 at the Grand Majestic Convention Center in Cebu City with the aim of providing the medical practitioner a state-of-the-art knowledge in childhood respiratory diseases. The convention will deal on pulmonary conditions relevant to the day-to-day clinical practice such as tuberculosis, asthma and pneumonia. Inquiries may be directed to the Section of Pulmonology of the Philippine Children's Medical Center at (632)9246601 to 25 local 253 or e-mail dr.cabs@pacific.net.ph and mafamd@edsamail.com.ph.

Silliman centennial plates now available

DRIVE around with a piece of Silliman history for only P1,500. The Silliman University Centennial Commission is offering a commemorative license plate and SU presidents ceramic plate as part of preparations to mark the school's 100th year. Application forms are available at the Silliman University Manila office at 3F Room 308, Trinity Bldg., TM Kalaw St., Ermita, Malate, with tel. Nos. (02) 523-2993 and at the SUCCLP Silliman University Centennial Commission (SUCC) in Dumaguete City with tel. Nos. (035) 422-6002, loc. 228 and 290. For more details, call Dolly Foribes at (02) 523-2993.

Pareb-QCRB real estate review

THE QUEZON City Realtors Board (QCRB) of the Philippine Association of Realtors Boards, Inc. (Pareb) is conducting the Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review every Saturday from March 17 to May 5 at 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 in the afternoon. Seminars are held at the Merced Bakeshop, 869 Edsa, Quezon City, near the Quezon Avenue MRT station. Interested parties may call the QCRB Secretariat at 448-6812/7216884 or Rushmore office at 912-2304, or e-mail qcrb@broline.com.

3M hosts lecturer

ATTENDEES will gain know-how at the upcoming Philippine Dental Association annual convention from world-renowned dental practitioner Dr. Terry Donovan, executive associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Southern California. Donovan will speak on three important topics during the event at the PICC from April 30 to May 5. The event will be hosted by 3M Philippines. 3M will also conduct hands-on workshops at the World Trade Center. For details, call 3M Philippines at 813-3781 to 95.

CONTRACT SIGNING
Exfoliant Extraderm, the No.1 in the Philippines, was endorsed by top women broadcast journalists in the country. Present during the signing March 23 were (from left) Cristina Pecson, Vicky Ofalsa, marketing manager, Splash Manufacturing Corporation, Christine Bersola and Bernadette Sembrano.

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VENANCIA 'ASIANG' ALAS

of San Pedro and Guiguinto, Bulacan

peacefully joined our Lord on April 25, 2001
at the age of 93.

Beloved wife of **VICENTE F. ALAS** (†); loving mother of **MELY** and **TONY ONG**, **VITA** (†) and **CHULIT LIM** (†), **CARLOS** (†), **LINA** and **BERT ALCALA** and **EFREN (CHOY)** doting grandmother of all her grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 29 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

ERLINDA BALINGIT SANTOS

(April 30, 1943 - April 26, 2001)
of San Fernado, Pampanga and San Pedro, Laguna

'she may be singing of a may day
of the greenfields and a night song
perceiving has ceased, but the light is still there
it sets a blaze in the darkness
and blinds a million unseeing eyes."

Beloved daughter of Felix Balingit' & Marina Dizon,'
loving wife of Rolly Aguirre Santos,
devoted Mother of Raleigh Alvin & Chin-Chin, Felix Dexter Santos,
wonderful grandma of Trisha Marie Santos,
dearest sister of Ester & Nesto Capili, Ofic' & Rizal Ordoñez,
Lita & Nesting Patawaran, Jeng & Nelia Balingit, Josie & Cet Dideles, and
a very good friend to several people in different walks of life,
peacefully made her final journey to our Father last Thursday. Her body
now lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel J, Guadalupe, Makati City.
Cremation will take place on Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at 4 p.m.

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Whoever
finds his
life will
lose it,
and
whoever
loses his
life for my
sake will
find it.
Matthew 10:39

COL. VOLTAIRE C. ACOSTA (Ret.)

Very peacefully joined our Creator and beloved wife "Endeng"
on April 26, 2001 at the age of 84.

His children **Antonio, Glenda, Evelynne, Elizabeth, Theresa, Voltaire, Ambrosio Jose** and **Cleotilde;** sons & daughters-in-law, brother & sisters, grandchildren & great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels until Saturday evenning and will be transferred to Camp Allen Chapel, Baguio City.

Interment will follow on Tuesday, May 1, 2001 at the Pyramid Memorial Gardens, Loakan after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Camp Allen Chapel, Baguio City.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

John 14:6

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Dr. Leland S. Villadolid

who died in the Grace of our Lord
on April 11, 2001

wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to those who expressed their sympathy and offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, kept vigil, and who in countless ways provided strength and comfort in our moment of grief.

May God bless all of you.

January 10, 1977- April 28, 2000

IN LOVING COMMEMORATION OF
THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR BELOVED

KATHERINE DANIELLE GARCIA TECSON

Benedictine Abbey School, 1993
B.S. Psychology, UP-Diliman, 1997
Ateneo Law School, 1998-2000

who untimely passed away at Mt. Titlis, Engelberg, Switzerland
on April 28, 2000 at the age of 23 years

We, the bereaved parents **DANNY & ZENDY**; sisters **KRISTINE & KAREN**; aunts, uncles, cousins, and the Management/Staff of **DANIELLE EQUIPMENT CORPORATION** request other relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of our very loving **KATHY KATE.**

Today, Holy Masses will be said at:

19:00 THE BF RESORT VILLAGE FAMILY RESIDENCE, LAS PINAS CITY, MM
17:00 ST. THOMAS MORE CHAPEL : ATENEO-ROCKWELL, MAKATI CITY, MM
18:00 CHURCH OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE : UP-DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, MM
18:30 ST. BENEDICT CHAPEL : ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY, MM
17:15 SANTISIMO ROSARIO PARISH CHURCH : UST, ESPANA, MANILA
17:30 MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH : BF RESORT VILLAGE, LAS PINAS CITY, MM
18:00 OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH : PHILAM LIFE VILLAGE, LAS PINAS CITY, MM
17:00 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH : GUAGUA, PAMPANGA
17:00 STA. ANA PARISH CHURCH : HAGONOY, BULACAN
09:30 ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH : LEYTON, LONDON, ENGLAND
17:00 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL : ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
17:00 ST. BERNARD PARISH CHURCH : SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA

and on April 29, 2001 at:

11:00 OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH : PHILAM LIFE VILLAGE, LAS PINAS CITY, MM
18:30 LA CONSOLACION PARISH CHURCH : SAN ISIDRO, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

THANK YOU, KATHY KATE!

Thank you for having been with us for 23 years although we expected to live our twilight years with you.
Thank you for the love you gave us although we did not have enough of it because you suddenly left.
Thank you for the joys you brought us for these were what made life easier to live.
Thank you for the honors you brought home for pride in you would always be etched in our minds and hearts.
Most of all, with your passing on, thank you for teaching us to live our lives closer to God.

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Top marketers sign up for NMC

TOP marketing practitioners from various distinguished companies have signed up to be part of the upcoming National Marketing Conference (NMC) on May 22-23 at the Manila Hotel. Spearheaded by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA), the two-day conference has the theme "Opportunities amidst change: winning strategies, effective controls."

Among the participants of the NMC are top officers from San Miguel Corporation, Ace Foods Inc., Dinsmor Enterprises, Magsaysay Travel and Tour, Equalivet Inc., Men's Gallery Corporation, and RCBC Savings Bank.

Mela Ortiz, manager for the beer division of San Miguel Corp., says, "It's always enlightening to hear the experts tackle marketing cases as applied in the respective fields. I find the open forum a good venue for the participants to ask questions or solicit advice from the experts in the marketing field." She stresses her anticipation on the discussion on how to turn sleeping giants into brand champions.

Williamson Nocom, general manager of Dinsmor Enterprises, has attended past NMCs. He relates, "I always look forward to attending the annual conference to update my knowledge and discover new trends in marketing. Since I am from a young company engaged in promotional products, it would be valuable for me to learn from the actual experiences of seasoned entrepreneurs and top-notch marketing practitioners."

On the other hand, representatives of Magsaysay Travel and Tour are looking forward to interact with other marketing practitioners and establish a broad network in the industry. For them, the new skills and marketing know-how acquired from the conference will be beneficial for their company's operation.

Comprising the roster of speakers for the NMC are marketing masters from companies such as ABS-CBN, AC Nielsen Philippines, Avon Cosmetics, Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands, College Assurance Plan, Family Fist Inc., BBDO Guerrero-Ortega, Oracle Philippines, Lowe, Lintas and Partners, Kraft Foods Philippines, Smart Communications Inc. and more.

For aspiring businessmen and marketing practitioners, don't miss the chance to learn from the best. For more information, contact the PMA Secretariat at 892-3144, 893-7127, 813-1466 and 892-3261 (telefax) or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

GENERAL MANAGER
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE

PCSO NEW GM

Outgoing Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office general manager Ricardo G. Golpeo (right) hands the incoming GM, the Hon. Virgilio R. Angelo, the PCSO colors during the formal turnover ceremonies held at the PCSO grounds last February. Looking on are PCSO chair Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" S. de Leon, board of director Margarita P. Juico, (seated, left); and administrative department manager Roger C. Ramirez.

CONTRACT SIGNING
R THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY (20)
AN OPTIMOD AUDIO PROCESSORS
2001 BOMBO RADYO NEWSCENTER, MAKATI C

BOMBO RADYO INKS DEAL WITH ORBAN

Bambo Radyo Philippines is once again blazing the path for an uncompromising sound quality in the radio world as it recently signed a P7-million purchase of Optimod Audio Processors for its Bombo Radyo and Star FM stations nationwide. Orban is the manufacturer and developer of the Optimod 8400, the latest state-of-the-art signal processing innovation that assures the highest quality of broadcasting for years to come. Photo shows (from left) Cristy Generoso, sales manager, Active Communication Technology; Don Mier, president, Active Communication Technology; Herman Z. Basbaño, assistant vice president/chief operating officer, AM division, Bombo Radyo Philippines; and George B.Castro, research development director, Bombo Radyo Philippines. The contract signing took place April 19 at the Bombo Radyo Newscenter, Makati City.

PARTNERS FOR HEALTHCARE

FriendlyCare, a non-stock, non-profit organization that aims to provide quality, compassionate, and affordable healthcare services to as many Filipinos as possible, has commissioned Campaigns Advocacy and PR, Inc. (Capri), an affiliate of Campaigns & Grey, to be its integrated communications agency. Present during the contract signing were (seated from left) Rocky Sanchez-Tirona, creative director, Capri; Bong Osorio, president, Capri; Jimmy Tan, president and CEO, FriendlyCare; and Mon Sto. Domingo, marketing director, FriendlyCare. Standing from left are Adee Caluag, account manager, Capri; Cecille Perez, marketing assistant, FriendlyCare; and Joan Angeles and Juan Carlos Negrette, consultants from Johns Hopkins University.

Nutri-licious
FRUIT BEVERAGES

MAX'S PLANT TOUR AT NUTRI-LICIOUS

Officials of Nutri-licious Foods Corp., (NFC) led by Gil S. Nemeño (right), president, took executives of Max's Ermita Group, operator of 17 branches of Max's chain of restaurants, on a tour of their plant facilities and offices in Pateros, Metro Manila. Nutri-licious, a leading manufacturer and exporter of premium natural fruit beverages, supplies the fruit drink requirements of all the restaurants of Max's Group of Companies nationwide. With Nemeño are (from left): Babsee Pamatmat, Max's kitchen operations and quality assurance manager; Leah Delan, Max's internal quality auditor; Lhoy dela Cuesta, NFC assistant vice president for sales; and Rolly Wagan, NFC key accounts sales manager.

Pistang Kristiano 2001 slated

THE CHRISTIAN community, under the auspices of Day By Day Christian Ministries led by Pastor Ed Lapuz, will celebrate "Pistang Kristiano 2001" on Tuesday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Quezon Memorial Circle. Everyone is invited, but be advised to come prepared for sun or rain.

Sharp accredited by DTI for CWD program

SHARP (Phils.) Corporation recently became the first company in the local electronic appliance industry to be accredited under the Department of Trade and Industry's Consumer Welfare Desk program.

"We are committed to putting our customers' welfare at the top of our list of priorities, and we're honored to be part of this program," said Sharp's head office CWD officer Jasmel Lacosta. Sharp Philippines intends to leverage its service capabilities into making itself more competitive in the local marketplace. The company has the largest and most extensive system of company-owned service centers, numbering 25, in the electronic appliance industry in the Philippines. It also has 36 Sharp Authorized Service Shops (SAAS).

"We're proud of the accessibility of our nationwide service centers," said Lacosta. "We are all in the major cities in Luzon, Visays and Mindanao. But we want to go beyond our accessibility and be more responsive and customer-friendly."

Lacosta stated that the CWD process would strengthen the servicing capabilities of Sharp. It also intends to put its service manuals on the Internet to enable the public to access any service manual for any model, new or old.

"We are using a tripartite approach by looking at the planning and implementation of the CWD program from the points of view of the consumer, private business and government," Lacosta said. "Hopefully, this tri-angled way of looking at things will help smoothen out and rationalize the entire exercise."

The CWD program seeks the establishment of consumer welfare desks among retail outlets to ensure consumers' accessibility to a grievance mechanism geared towards the speedy resolution of consumer complaints and queries.

FBDC LEASE AGREEMENT

Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation and Japs Food Services recently signed a Contract of Lease Agreement as one of the fastfood outlets in the Bonifacio Stopover. This two-story retail complex will play host to a full-service Shell station, food and convenience outlets that will soon rise at the Bonifacio Global City. Japs offers a variety of select and sumptuous Japanese food. Seen in photo are Vicente C. Tinsay III, FBDC senior vice president and Cynthia Anna T. Castillo, Japs Food Services proprietor.

Shop Asia 2001 at World Trade Center

SHOP Asia 2001, the pioneering international event in retailing trends and technologies, will be held on July 5-8 at the World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila.

Making possible face-to-face interaction between suppliers and retailers, Shop Asia 2001 provides optimum retailing solutions to build sales and establish all-the-time market connectivity.

Three major events happening simultaneously during Shop Asia 2001 capture the total concept of lifestyle marketing and shopping. The first is Supermarket Show, the most important showcase on ,supermarket products, equipment and technologies. The second is Restau-Rama 2001, the definitive exhibit on food service products, equipment, technology and catering trends. The third is Future Shops 2001, a multimedia design and creative competition on tomorrow's shops.

To address the rapidly changing environment of food service and retailing, the conference is designed to inspire new ideas and strategies. The topics will feature creative concepts and insights to provide a total experience: using the power of visuals, the essence of aroma to incite and excite, and the use of sounds to influence customers' shopping behavior.

Interested parties may contact Expovision Trade Services Inc. at S-202-A, Veca Building, Pasong Tamo corner Estrella Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City at (632) 895-2392/895-5735 or fax (632) 890-7531 or email at xpotrade@mkt.weblinq.com.

www.eauctions
internet auctions

EAUCTIONS.PH AT E-COMMERCE EXPO

eAuctions.ph (www.eauctions.ph), the best place to buy, sell and collect online, invaded the malls last week for the Cisco E-Commerce World Expo. eAuctions.ph founders Jasper Ong and Ian Antonino showed participants how easy it is to register, use and navigate the site. The site features hundreds of items up for auction everyday—from books, CDs, DVDs and cell phones to antiques, toys, coins, stamps and other collectibles. At the SM Megatrade Hall expo, eAuctions.ph had several terminals ready for students and professionals to browse through the site. eAuctions.ph also raffled off several prized items including Pokemon, Star Wars and eAuctions.ph souvenirs. Photo shows eAuctions.ph founders Ian Antonino and Jasper Ong with eAuctions.ph mascot King Kong posing in front of the eAuctions.ph booth.

BITS & Clips

Executive Editors' news writing seminar

EXECUTIVE Editors, Inc's seminar, "Corporate News and Feature Writing" on Friday, May 11, teaches corporate writers and editors the professional techniques in news and feature writing. Lecturers are led by Jack Lim, Executive Editors president and founding editor-in-chief of World Executive's Digest. For details, call 887-3797 or 98, fax 887-3796 or e-mail execedit@mozcom.com.

Miss Philippines coronation night

MISS Philippines, the first local beauty pageant to devote its efforts to environmental concerns via its international competition Miss Earth, will hold its coronation night tonight, April 28, 9 p.m. at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City. Miss Lorraine Schuck, vice president of Carousel Productions, Inc., said about 27 candidates will vie for the title. The coronation night will be telecast live on RPN 9. Ding Bolanos directs.

Affordable summer getaway

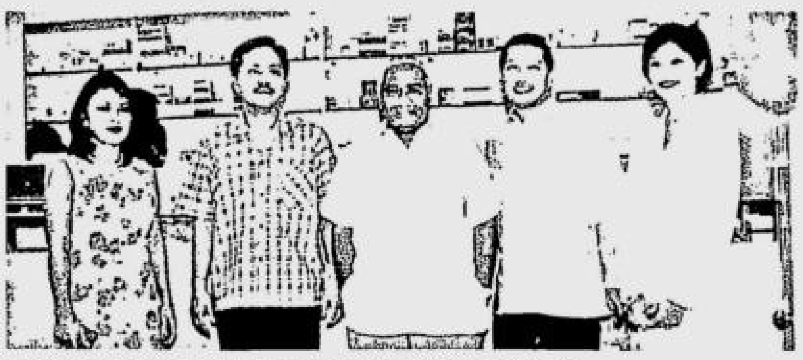
LAS PALMAS Hotel offers a holiday getaway for the Filipino family. For P600 per person based on twin sharing, your family can enjoy the luxury of Las Palmas' rooms, facilities and quality service. Kids below 12 years old are free of charge. Call the sales office at 524-5612 and 524-5602. This offer is good from May 1-31 only.

Lite N' Live reborn

THE HAPPENING place in Quezon City will sizzle once more on Thursday, May 3 as the Mermaids and Flipside perform with its improved state-of-the-art sound equipment, world class billiard tables, and now a coffee shop/bake shop with a superb line of cakes, desserts and rich flavored coffee.

Dulaang Balintataw drama workshops

DULAANG Balintataw welcomes registrants to its 11th annual drama workshops "Basic/Advanced Integrated TV-Theater Arts Crash Course"—children's theater, teen theater, young adults and professionals. Final registration day is on Sunday, April 29, 2 to 5 p.m. at the basement chapel of the DAR Building, Elliptical Road, Quezon Circle, Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, call the Artistic Director at 373-1575.



FIRST ASIA DRUG INAUGURAL OUTLET

Asia Healthcare, Inc. opened its first retail outlet, First Asia Drug, at Rustan's South Center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. First Asia Drug is the first stand-alone retail pharmacy of Asia Healthcare, Inc. (AHI), the pioneer in Pharmacy Management in the Philippines. Asia Healthcare brings to First Asia Drug its unique clinical approach to patients which makes it the choice pharmacy contractor at the Asian Development Bank, the HealthWay Medical Clinics, Friendly Care (Masinag) and PhilAm Care. Shown in photo are (from left) Maya Escober, marketing manager; Ramon Unarce, finance/administration manager; Sta. Rosa, Laguna Mayor Leon Arcillas; Dr. Carlos Naval, general manager and wife Dra. Sullian S. Naval.

AND LY IN CLINIC
MAN HYG MO

HYGIENE AWARENESS MONTH

Domex assistant brand manager Tip Tan (right) poses with F. Lanuza Health Center and Lying–in clinic officials and the DomeX-Men at the health center's premises. The DomeX-Men, a group of specially trained men conducting seminars and cleanups in various health centers in Manila, recently started promoting proper hygiene practice during the first Domex Manila Hygiene Month. Aside from F. Lanuza Health Center and Lying-in Clinic, the DomeX-Men also visited the Ospital ng Maynila, Belmonte, San Miguel and Rosario Reyes health centers. After Manila, Domex hopes to bring the Hygiene Month to other cities in Metro Manila. Domex is recognized by the International Scientific Forum on Home Hygiene (IFH), the Philippine Public Health Association (PPHA) and the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD) as the only all-around cleaner that cleans and kills all known germs.

SCIENCE /HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Local experts 'weighing' proposal for lower obesity classification

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

PHILIPPINE obesity experts are studying a World Health Organization proposal to lower the present gauge being used in classifying a person as overweight and obese.

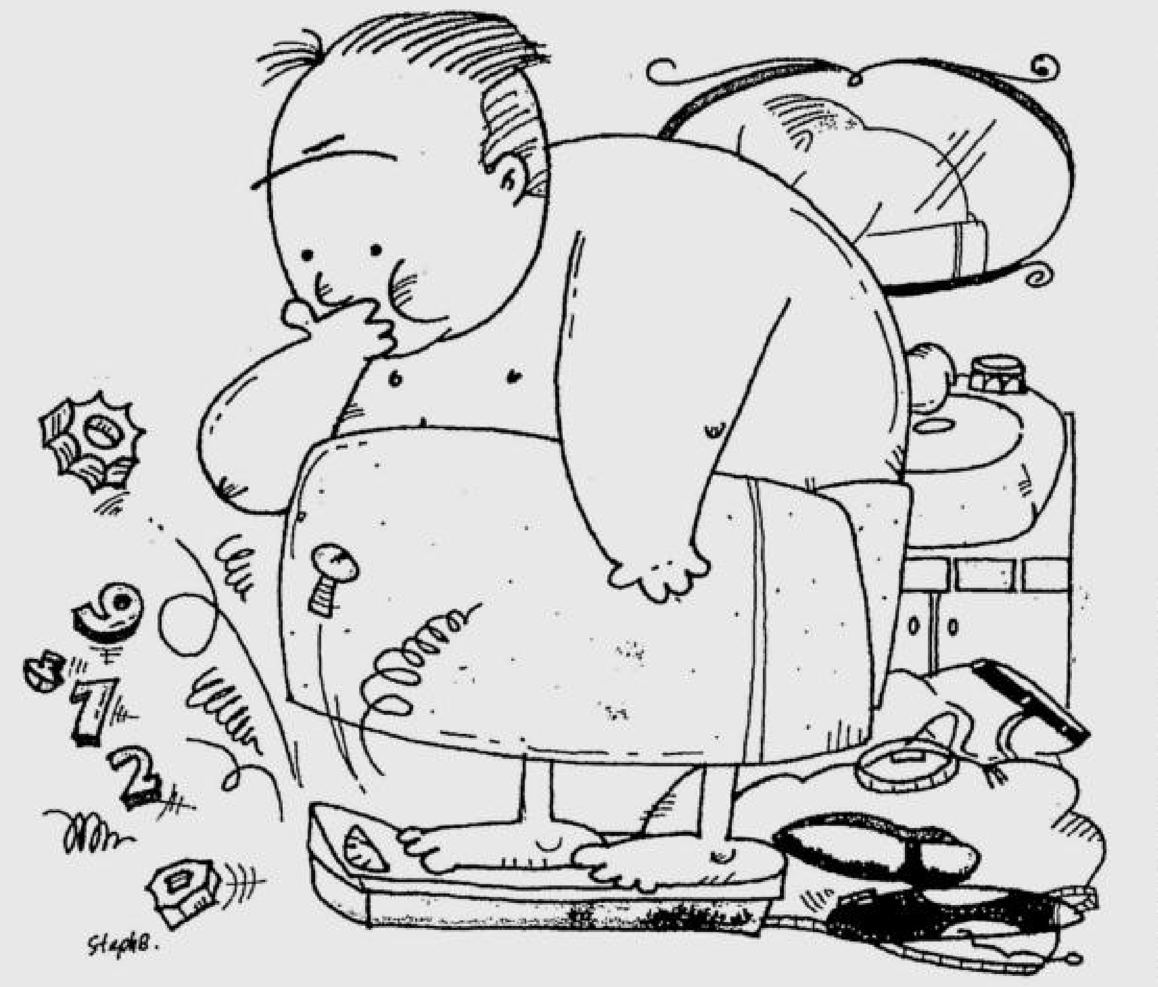
The WHO proposes that a body mass index (BMI) of 23 already be considered overweight while a BMI of 25 be classified as obese.

At present, the WHO's worldwide definition for overweight is a BMI of 25 to 29.9, while an obese person is classified as having a BMI of 30 and above.

An individual's BMI is computed by dividing the weight (in kilos) with the body area (in square meters).

If the WHO proposal is followed, more Filipinos would be classified as overweight or obese. The Filipino overweight population would be 23.3 percent while the obese population would be 20.1 percent.

The current WHO criteria place the Filipino overweight population at 16.9 percent and the obese population at 3.1 percent. The figures are based on a 1998 study, which is the latest available.



More obese Asians

Medical experts in Asia have noted a growing trend toward obesity in the Asia-Pacific region. Aside from the Philippines, countries like Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Thailand also had an increased prevalence of obesity in both adults and children during the past five years.

For its part, the Philippines through the Philippine Association in the Study of Overweight and Obesity (Pasoo) is busy reviewing the proposed WHO reclassification.

Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy, treasurer and member of the board of directors of Pasoo, disclosed that the group is now finished with its study on obesity.

The study was done in the government-run Ospital ng Makati involving 5,000 patients and the private hospital Cardinal Santos Medical Center involving 100 patients.

Pasoo will be doing a study on a bigger scale to confirm the previous research and it is currently studying how the new data would be disseminated in different parts of the country.

Stigma

"The stigma attached to overweight and obese weighs heavily on Filipinos," said Sy.

A 1997 study showed that 21 percent of Filipinos who consult general practitioners are obese and that only 4 percent of the obese population is consulting doctors.

The Philippine prevalence of overweight and obese has increased by 2.9 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively, in five years.

The WHO called obesity as one of the "most blatantly visible, yet most neglected public health problem paradoxically co-existing with undernutrition." It warned of an escalating global epidemic of overweight and obesity.

Obesity is linked with serious diet-related noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, and certain forms of cancer.

"Its health consequences range from increased risk of premature death to serious chronic conditions that reduce the overall quality of life," WHO said.

Diet and lifestyle

Obesity and overweight problems among many Asians are being attributed to diet and lifestyle changes that have resulted from industrialization, urbanization, economic development and market globalization.

"The workload that we have to put up now (in fighting obesity) was greater than before because of technological advancements. We do less physical activities and we try to adapt the Western way of life. (There is also) the advent of all these instant food with high salt content," said Sy.

Pasoo is a multidisciplinary association. Its members include doctors, dietitians, physical therapists and gym instructors. It has a main office in Manila and has regional chapters in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Northern Luzon and the South.

Pasoo is conducting its obesity prevention awareness week in September.

Obesity increases diabetes risk, says study

A WEIGHT gain of more than 10 percent and being obese for more than five years significantly increase the risk of developing type 2 diabetes among middle-aged men, said a report from the Royal Free and University College Medical School in London.

And according to Prof. Paul Zimmet of the International Diabetes Institute of Melbourne, being obese is not only an underlying contributory factor but it actually exacerbates the severity of diabetes.

Zimmet noted that majority of patients with type 2 diabetes are obese.

"Increased body fat—particularly abdominal fat mass—corresponds significantly with insulin resistance and glucose intolerance. Moreover, there is also a greater risk of developing cardiovascular disease," Zimmet said.

Zimmet suggested a weight loss program to prevent and control diabetes on obese persons.

"There is a substantial volume of evidence that says weight loss not only improves type 2 diabetes, but may also reverse it. Weight loss also reduces cardiovascular risk and should be considered a primary goal in the management of obese patients with type 2 diabetes," he added.

He said a successful long-term weight reduction could be hard to achieve and suggested a safe and effective pharmacological therapy like Xenical (Orlistat) as part of the weight-management program.

A prescription drug, Xenical is the first lipase inhibitor that acts nonsystemically and prevents the absorption of around 30 percent of ingested fat. It is being used by 10 million patients worldwide.

Getting the most out of your pregnancy

FOR MOST women, pregnancy is the culmination of their womanhood. Indeed, there's probably no better feeling than to bring another life in this world we live in. As such, getting pregnant must never be left to chance. It has to be carefully planned and decided on by the woman and her partner.

In its efforts toward responsible parenthood, the Department of Health (DOH) says deciding the size of one's family, spacing the birth of the children as well as the age when the couple decide to have children contributes to their as well as their family's chances for healthy living. The DOH has set these five guidelines, or "five toos," so women can make the most out of their pregnancy and live a healthy family life.

Too young—Women below the age of 20 have a greater risk of developing complications during pregnancy and childbirth. While the onset of menstruation means a girl can already get pregnant, her body especially the reproductive organs needs time to mature and prepare for pregnancy and childbirth/delivery.

Too old—Women, who are 35 years and above, also have higher risks of developing complications and/or birth defects during pregnancy and childbirth. Among these are infertility, miscarriage, low birth weight, stillbirth, chromosomal abnormalities and other medical complications.

Too close—Women must not get pregnant at an interval of 24 months or less because a woman's body also needs time to recover from the effects of childbirth. Ideally, the interval births should be three years.

Too many—Women, who have had four or more children, have an increased risk of dying from further pregnancies because the effects of having too many children do not stop at pregnancy and childbirth and go on for the rest of the woman's life.

Too sickly—Women, who are malnourished, anemic, hypertensive, have diabetes or any other ailment that hinders the flow of oxygen and nourishment to the baby, may fail to carry the baby to term or may give birth to a baby who is sickly as well.

So remember, any time is perfect to have a baby because as long as you take care of your health, you, your baby and your family have better chances being healthy.

A guide to child's dev't

THEY wiggle and wobble. It's amazing to see how infants develop abilities to move, turn, crawl, sit, stand and walk in just over a year. A child's every move never fails to amaze people as the young ones mark each developmental motor skill milestone.

As an easy guide to your baby's motor growth, Dr. Miguel Celdran, pediatric development chair at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, enumerated the normal pattern of development that should be observed among the tiny tots. However, children show some individual differences in the way they develop and each child should be allowed a leeway before parents get concerned.

- By 3 months—a baby pushes self up on his arms, holds head up.
- By 6 months—he sits with support, holds head up, straight back.
- By 8 months—he sits without support, arms free to reach and grasp.
- By 12 months—he pulls to stand.
- By 15 months—he stands or walks independently.

Later in life when your child enters the puberty stage and you notice that he is not developing and growing along with his peers, there is a need to be deeply concerned and the advice of a pediatric endocrinologist should be sought.

This is where the expertise of the AHMC pediatric endocrinology section head Dr. Ludivina Garces-Holst comes in: "Our line of specialization deals with hormonal imbalances that manifest once a child reaches the stage of puberty."

"We are mostly concerned with the height and weight problems of our patients, as well as the changes taking place in one's body during puberty," said Garces-Holst, one of the pioneers in pediatric endocrinology in the country.

She said individuals must have weight appropriate with height. A hormonal imbalance occurs when a child is either too tall or too short for his age, or when his weight is either way above or below his height-age bracket. There are also some cases when a child undergoes reproductive growth at an early stage.

These problems can be treated and corrected accordingly with the state-of-the-art facilities and equipment at the AHMC, she said.

Celdran said AHMC's pediatrics department will adopt a "consultative" approach and there will be a better patient-doctor ratio to ensure that every patient is taken care of.

Filipinos will soon experience AHMC's brand of patient-centered treatment within a total healing environment when it formally opens on the third quarter of this year at the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. For more information, visit the AHMC website: www.asianhospital.com.

PULMONARY REHAB

Making lives better for chronic lung patients

BY THE CHARTER BUREAU

MOST of us breathe air in and out with hardly any effort. Breathing is something we give little thought of and take for granted—until it becomes difficult for us to perform the simple act of drawing air into our lungs.

For many patients with severe lung diseases, chronic cough, wheezing and shortness of breath make simple everyday activities harder to perform, resulting in a miserable quality of life for themselves and their families. The good news though is that chronically ill patients with serious breathing difficulties can improve their lung function and get their second wind in life through a program called Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

What is pulmonary rehabilitation and how does it help patients with severe lung problems?

Chronic lung diseases are very common and are steadily increasing in incidence in developing countries like the Philippines. This has been attributed to the increase in smoking even among the young and to environmental pollution. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, is becoming more prevalent and is composed mainly of two conditions—emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Smoking is usually the main cause for both these conditions.

Despite recent advances in medical treatment, the most that can be achieved through medication alone is temporary relief of symptoms in the majority of patients suffering from moderate to severe lung disease. This is why doctors became interested in establishing pulmonary rehabilitation programs to do more for patients in terms of helping them improve their functional abilities, enhance their quality of lives and cope with their lung problem.

The American College of Chest Physicians, a prestigious group of pulmonary specialists in the United States, defines pulmonary rehabilitation as "an art of medical practice wherein an individually tailored multidisciplinary program is formulated through accurate diagnosis, therapy, emotional support and education." It also "attempts to return the patient to the highest possible functional capacity allowed by his pulmonary handicap and overall life situation."

Improve quality of life

There are three major objectives of pulmonary rehabilitation: to reduce the obstruction of air in the patient's lungs, to prevent and treat complications of patient's disease and to improve the patient's quality of life.

The program is done through two very important activities: education and exercise.

The patient has to be well informed about the exact nature of his lung problem including triggering or aggravating factors, which cause exacerbations. He is then guided and supervised to perform exercises that are appropriate for the severity of his lung condition, and geared to improve his functional capacity.

Several modern tertiary medical centers in the Philippines have started setting up their lung rehabilitation programs. One of the pioneers in this endeavor is the Philippine Heart Center's Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program. The approach is multidisciplinary, involving pulmonary physicians, pulmonary fellows in training and other health care professionals (physiatrist, psychiatrist, respiratory therapists, nutritionist, physical therapists, social workers and hospital chaplain).

The PHC program is divided into four phases.

In phase 1, the state of the patient's lungs is evaluated so that an individualized exercise and education program can be planned to fit his needs. Phase 2 is the continuation of education, supervised exercise training sessions and weekly support group discussions. During phase 3, the patient comes in for four weekly visits for follow-up sessions, exercise training and a review of home program progress. Phase 4 consists of maintenance exercise sessions for those that have already "graduated" or completed the program.

Motivation necessary

Patients are usually referred to the program by their doctors. The majority of those included in the program are those suffering from COPD, asthma, bronchiectasis and tuberculosis. These are usually patients with severe respiratory symptoms, restricted activities and impaired quality of life. Patients who want to enrol in the program must be motivated to commit to the program to gain maximum benefits from all phases of rehabilitation.

The physical part of the program is designed to improve exercise capacity and lessen shortness of breath. This includes supervised treadmill walking, strengthening exerrcises for arms and legs and a home walking program based on the patient's individual progress.

The upper body exercise program results in an improvement in the patient's performance of everyday activities like combing hair, brushing teeth, bathing and eating. One of the reasons for limiting exercise among patients is fatigue of the respiratory muscles. Because of this, a breathing technique called "diaphragm breathing" is performed with the upper and lower body exercises.

The educationAL aspect covers topics including information about chronic lung diseases and treatment options, breathing maneuvers, energy-saving techniques for daily living, oxygen therapy and other related issues. Through pulmonary rehabilitation, patients are taught and encouraged to live fuller and more productive lives by actively participating in their own health care and maintenance.

Group support meetings are also conducted to help patients deal with the lifestyle changes and limitations imposed by chronic lung diseases, as well as address issues like fear, anxiety and depression.

It's most unfortunate that one should develop COPD due to smoking or other causes. It makes it even more unfortunate for one with severe lung disease to just sit and wait for his fate without giving himself the benefit of a pulmonary rehabilitation program.

(Charter is the acronym for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management, a nonstock, nonprofit research foundation that evaluates the impact of risk factors and interventions, particularly lifestyle changes, on heart, lung and other diseases. Charter is based at the Manila Sanitarium & Hospital. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

How much water should one drink this summer?

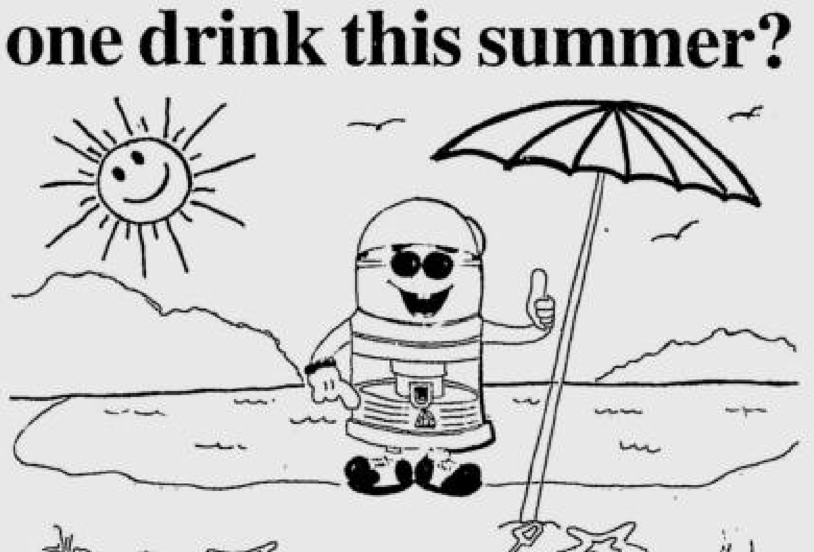
MOST people look forward to hot summer days when they can bask in the sun and enjoy a variety of outdoor activities. After all, summer is a time for recreation, exercise and parties. But before you go for a strenuous activity under the sun, think again.

Research shows that prolonged exposure to the sun can actually be dangerous, especially when exercising in the heat because we sweat profusely. As we endure days of hot and sunny weather, our bodies lose more fluids, risking dehydration and possible heat stroke.

Our water needs are higher than we think, especially during summer. Studies reveal that during a hot day, the body loses an estimated 3-4 cups of water through breathing only. Just imagine how much more we lose through perspiring and eliminating wastes.

Medical experts have long advocated the standard eight glasses (48 ounces) of water a day so that our bodies function properly. According to Health Magazine, while two quarts of water a day may seem like a lot, even the smallest deficit can leave you feeling tired or ill.

While some people prefer to drink juice and bottled drinks, water is still the fluid of choice. Water Philippines has collated various tips on the importance of water this summer and all the days of our lives. The company is the distributor of the Waters Bio Mineral Pot, a two-in-one water purifier and mineralizer that serves as a home water refilling station providing healthy and tasty mineral water at a cost of less than two pesos per liter.



- Dr. Jennifer Brett, a Stanford-based naturopath, recommends at least 10 glasses of water daily for optimal health during summer days. She also suggests that pregnant women should increase their water intake by 50 percent.
- Dr. Scott Montain, a research physiologist for the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, has observed that people, when left on their own, only replace one-half to three-quarters of the water they lose every day. He says that people should drink at least three glasses of water after they don't feel thirsty anymore.
- The American College of Sports Medicine reminds athletes to drink about 17 ounces of fluid two hours before strenuous exercise. Generally, people should drink at least one glass of water for each 30 minutes of exercise.
- Online resource wellness-today.com warns those too fond of the sun about symptoms of heat stroke and heat exhaustion such as headaches, dizziness and weakness. More serious symptoms include muscle cramps, rapid heart beat and even loss of consciousness. What to do? Get out of the sun, remove clothing, give replacement fluids and wet the person with a cold, damp cloth.

REEXAMINING PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE

Why PPA is not that bad

(Last of two parts)

BY CHARLES BUBAN

(Nearly five months ago, America's and perhaps the world's most commonly used non-prescription medication for cough-cold remedies and appetite suppressants met a tragic ending: the United States Food and Drug Administration declared Phenylpropanolamine or PPA not safe.

Phenylpropanolamine's sudden fall from grace forced drug manufacturers to pull their affected products from shelves and look for a safer replacement. Households have become much more cautious, taking a second look at their medicine for PPA ingredient it might contain.

But is the American ban on PPA applicable in Philippine setting? The Department of Health does not believe so.)

EVEN in this period of medical breakthroughs and discoveries, one thing that still baffles us is the continuing occurrence of the common cold. Until now there is no known cure—there are about 200 different strains of virus that are capable of producing colds and thus, no single vaccine can prevent its occurrence. What we only can do is relieve its symptoms.

Common colds can be easily transmitted but because we consider the disease mild, we don't look at it as something serious until complications set in. The most commonly prescribed medicines to cure the symptoms of common colds are drugs containing phenylpropanolamine or PPA.

PPA is an ingredient in most cold and flu remedies marketed in the Philippines. But should the country's Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) follow the United States Food and Drug Administration warning on the use of PPA?

In reaction to the Yale study, the Department of Health through the BFAD conducted a review on the study and safety of PPA-containing drugs marketed locally.

The DOH found some methodological flaws in the study. Among the points raised include:

- Stroke cases were not comparable to the control subjects because there were more hypertensives and smokers among the cases than the controls. "It is known that smoking and hypertension are risk factors for stroke. Therefore, the occurrence of stroke in these cases could be due to their being hypertensives and smokers, factors independent of their PPA use," says the DOH assessment.
- There were more African-Americans among the cases than the controls. "It is known that there is a higher occurrence of stroke among African-Americans than among Caucasians," says the DOH.
- The association between PPA-containing cough-cold medicine and stroke was not statistically significant. The Yale study, however, suggested an increased risk of stroke for subjects who used slimming aids or appetite suppressants containing PPA.

Furthermore, the DOH stressed that the study cannot be applied in the Philippines since there are no BFAD-registered appetite suppressants marketed locally. If there are any, these may have been brought in from abroad by some people. Former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, Jr. warned the public to read medicine labels first before taking them.

Lower PPA dose

The DOH assessment also noted that the PPA preparation in the United States is much higher than what is being used here in the Philippines and is mostly used in appetite suppressants. The last dose ingested by most cases in the Yale study, the assessment noted, exceeded 75 mg with several cases ingesting as much as 150 mg. The DOH said the usual recommended dose of cough-cold medicines in the country range from 12.5 mg to 25 mg per tablet with only two products containing 50 mg per tablet.

For over 30 years that PPA has been in existence in the Philippines, neither the DOH nor the BFAD have documented any cases linking PPA with the occurrence of hemorrhagic stroke. But as a precautionary measure, the DOH issued a directive that drugs containing PPA of 25 mg or less can still be purchased over the counter while those from 25 mg to 50 mg shall now be classified as prescription products that can only be dispensed with a doctor's approval.

The BFAD will no longer register drugs containing PPA higher than 50 mg.

Despite the FDA ban, many still endorse on the safety of PPA.

"In the literature of the PPA-containing preparations, there is a warning against taking the drug by those with a history of hypertension. Since these drugs are basically sympathomimetic agents, they raise blood pressure. But the thing is, the effect is dose-related—as you increase the dose the more hypertensive you will be," explains Dr. Genesis Rivera, director for training (Department of Pediatrics) and head of Poison Center at the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

"We believe that the PPA doses being marketed here are safe. Besides, there is no such thing as safe drugs (without any side effects) but there is 'safe dose' of a drug, meaning, provided you use a drug in the correct dose, you won't go wrong," Rivera adds.

Counterpart drugs

In considering the significance of PPA in treating symptoms of colds, doctors have also looked into its other counterpart drugs. Among them is pseudoephedrine, which is a very good PPA alternative since it has the same effect as that of PPA. But unlike PPA, pseudoephedrine has a huge potential to be abused, being a precursor substance of amphetamine and thus classified among dangerous drugs.

Another alternative for PPA is antihistamine. It belongs to another group of drugs used to treat (usually in combination with PPA) symptoms of colds like runny nose. "But antihistamines, while having a drying effect, can cause drowsiness. That's why those who drive or operate machines are warned against taking them," reminds Rivera.

Single component formulation

Since PPA is the more practical drug among its counterparts, doctors would use PPA as a single component in cold formulations.

A single component means that the level of PPA ingredient in the formulation is specifically used to treat the cold symptoms alone. Since PPA is a decongestant, it will be the sole active ingredient in the cold formulation while the other ingredient will only be flavors, colors, etc.

As opposed to single-component formulations, multiple-component formulations are those drugs that have multiple ingredients used to address different symptoms of the cold—one ingredient is for treating dry cough, the other for allergy, while another would be for stuffy nose. This is risky, according to studies, because it requires a dosage of PPA that is over 50 mg.

"In a single component, you use less dosage of PPA but that won't affect the potency of the ingredient to treat cold symptoms like stuffy nose," explains Rivera.

"It's a good thing our country has a National Drug Committee under the DOH that scrutinizes these drugs. With the BFAD monitoring every report of adverse reactions to any type of drugs marketed in the country, I believe that with regard to PPA, there should be no cause for alarm," assures Rivera.

Math in Internet design and elsewhere

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

HOW is mathematics applied in Internet network design? Miguel Paraz {map@internet.org.ph}, my student in 1991, recently sent this query:

Currently, I feel an inkling toward going back to more "academic" fields of study. Right now I am working on IP engineering, designing and operating Internet networks. I am interested in how math can be applied to making this more scientific since much of it is heuristics and "tancha."

One thing that interests me in math is the research project that became the commercial company Akamai [http://www.akamai.com] that speeds up the delivery of Internet content. I think our low-tech Philippine Internet could benefit from this in a noncommercial context.

The Akamai website does look interesting, and perhaps some local companies should contact the company for possible applications. As for your question on math, Marco Chanco, an instructor at the School of Science and Engineering of the Ateneo de Manila, has this to say:

"There is not a straightforward answer to this. It depends on which side of the design you are in. There are two sides—the vendor and the provider. The vendor side includes companies like Cisco, Nortel and Lucent that manufacture switches/routers, while the other one includes companies like ISPs which use these switches to provide service.

"Markov chain modeling is involved in the design of switches. That is, they model the problem, run a sufficient amount of simulations, and do analysis on the data to determine how much capacity a switch/router should have in order to support a certain bit rate. It is also possible to do Markov chain modeling on the provider side by say, dividing the kind of traffic into different classes and then determining how many switches/routers need to be installed and how much capacity is needed. The much and many can be separate issues. Part of this also includes statistical analysis of the trend of the traffic and making predictions on what the major and minor sources of traffic are. Part of this can also include how many switches/routers need to be deployed so that there is robustness and redundancy in the network in case of a breakdown of one or more switches.

"There are tons of things that can be done. But it's also a lot of work. Statistical analysis and trending of the traffic is important as well as classification of traffic to provide different qualities of service. By the way, Markov chains involve matrix computations, an essential part of matrix algebra and linear programming.

* * *

Priya Murthy [priya25_20@yahoo. com] sends this query:

I am an engineering student and I want to know about computer notebooks. What are their advantages and disadvantages? Also, which companies make them in India and abroad?

One advantage of computer notebooks would be the inconvenience of storing information—useful especially for executives and others who prefer to have information all in one place (instead of several different paper notebooks or diaries) and who need to have the ability to do word processing and computation immediately. If you travel a lot, you may want to invest in a computer notebook. An obvious disadvantage is of course, the cost, which can sometimes be more than a desktop computer. Also, personally, I don't own one, because I find that the print size is often too small for my taste. I prefer to do computer work on an ordinary desktop computer. Many companies that make computers do manufacture notebooks (leading ones like IBM and Apple), which I am sure are available in India. You can always try to look for cheaper ones, many of which are assembled in Asia.

* * *

From Mari Grace Siapengco [ney11@hotmail.com] comes this problem:

I would like to inquire about the use of proportion in solving a problem. Are there any definite rules in using proportions? Here is an illustrated example in our Grade 6 textbook.

A tree 30 feet high cast an 18-foot shadow. What is the height of the tree if its shadow is 12 feet?

The solution is as follows:

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{(shadow)} & \underline{18} & \underline{12} & \text{(shadow)} \\ \text{(tree)} & 30 & n & \text{(tree)} \end{array}$$

$$\frac{18}{12} = \frac{12}{n}$$

But the same answer can be obtained by writing the proportion as:

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{(shadow)} & \underline{18} & \underline{30} & \text{(tree)} \\ \text{(shadow)} & 12 & n & \text{(tree)} \end{array}$$

$$\frac{18}{12} = \frac{30}{n}$$

Which is correct?

Both are correct. When using proportions, just make sure to be consistent. When your first proportion is height/shadow, then its corresponding side has to be the same thing. Why are both correct? To solve the first proportion, 30 (12) = n (18), thus n = 30 (12) / 18. The second proportion gives: 18 (n) = 12 (30), which gives the same thing. Remember that multiplication is commutative.

* * *

Send your queries to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math. admu.edu. ph.

Boehringer, Pfizer jointly market COPD treatment

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim and Pfizer Inc. have entered into a long-term worldwide agreement to jointly market Spiriva (tiotropium), a novel once-a-day inhaled treatment for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, which includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Boehringer Ingelheim has filed for marketing approval with regulatory authorities in Europe, where Spiriva could be available as early as mid-2002. A new drug application for Spiriva is anticipated to be filed with the US Food and Drug Administration later this year.

Spiriva, discovered and developed by Boehringer Ingelheim, would be the first once-a-day- inhaled bronchodilator treatment for COPD and represents a significant advance over other treatment options.

According to the World Health Organization, about 600 million people suffer from COPD, though many are undiagnosed. The disease claims three million lives annually. It is estimated that one in five smokers will develop COPD.

"We're very pleased to be working with Pfizer in co-promoting Spiriva," said, Prof. Rolf Krebs, chair of the board of managing directors at Boehringer Ingelheim. "Through this agreement, we gain a strong and experienced partner who will help increase awareness of the disease and of the significant patient benefits that this novel compound delivers."

"We fully expect Spiriva to be an important treatment option for a condition that is debilitating to patients and costly to health care systems worldwide," said Pfizer chief executive officer Hank McKinnell. "Building on our extensive partnering experience and combined with Boehringer Ingelheim's established strength and long experience in respiratory disease management, Spiriva should become the global leader in treating COPD."

COPD is a chronic respiratory disorder characterized by limited airflow accompanied by symptoms such as shortness of breath, cough, wheezing and increased sputum production. As the disease progresses, patients become increasingly disabled, although at first they may attribute their symptoms to aging. Currently there are no specific medications that are fully effective in treating COPD.

COPD is a major socio-economic burden. It is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, exceeded only by heart attacks, cancer and stroke.

Data from clinical trials involving more than 3,000 patients worldwide have demonstrated that Spiriva is highly effective, providing sustained bronchodilation with significant symptomatic improvement in shortness of breath. Data also indicate that Spiriva reduced exacerbations of COPD, resulting in fewer hospitalizations. Spiriva was shown to be well-tolerated.

Under terms of the agreement, Boehringer Ingelheim and Pfizer will conduct additional clinical trials and further develop Spiriva.

"We anticipate this will be a long and productive collaboration with Pfizer in the commercialization of Spiriva," said Dr. Alessandro Banchi, member of Boehringer Ingelheim's board of managing directors who is responsible for pharmaceutical marketing and sales.

The Boehringer Ingelheim group of companies, with headquarters in Ingelheim, Germany, is one of the 20 leading pharmaceutical companies in the world. In 2000, it posted revenues of more than EUR 6 billion. Boehringer has some 140 affiliated companies worldwide. The focus is on the human pharmaceutical and animal al health businesses. The human pharmaceutical business' which accounts for 95 percent of sales, mainly includes prescription medicines-and products for consumer health care but also products for industrial customers (chemicals and biopharmaceuticals).

Substantial research and development, production, and distribution facilities are located around the globe. In 2000, Boehringer Ingelheim spent EUR 1 billion on research and development, equivalent to 16 percent of net sales.

PGH gets loan for upgrades

THE SPANISH government will help modernize the facilities and services of the Department of Emergency Medical Services of the Philippine General Hospital through a US$15.7 million soft loan. The aid was formalized in a contract between the University of the Philippines System and the supplier, Intersalus SA of Barcelona.

The modernization project will enable DEMS-PGH to provide more efficient and effective emergency care to all acutely ill patients coming from different parts of the country, especially those from the low-income sector.

To initially benefit from the project are the Adult Acute Care Unit, Special Care Unit, Medical Unit, Surgical Observation Unit, Central Sterilization Unit, Medical Records Unit, X-ray Unit and Ambulatory Care Unit. Also to benefit are the Communication and Information System and the EMS transport equipment.

SCISCOPE

Cocolife launches healthcare program

THE UNITED Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp. (Cocolife) recently launched the Cocolife Healthcare program. The program aims to offer health benefits to corporate employees without sacrificing value for money through reasonable and affordable packages. Cocolife's healthcare strategy, according to Cocolife president Fred Tumacder, is to streamline operations and administration, including taking good care of its network of service providers—the accredited hospitals, clinics and doctors—thus ensuring that preferential attention is extended to Cocolife Healthcare members. With this approach, Cocolife hopes to entice more members through the "word-of-mouth advertising" of its very satisfied Healthcare members. To date, Cocolife Healthcare posted P161 million premium income and handles more than 200 corporate accounts. It has 240 accredited hospitals, close to 100 clinics and 3,000 doctors nationwide. It is the only healthcare program approved and regulated by the Insurance Commission and licensed by the Department of Health. This is an assurance that Cocolife HealthCare adheres to very strict standards of servicing.

New short courses from UP

THE DEPARTMENT of Health Policy & Administration of the UP College of Public Health is offering the following short courses for April and May, 2001: Program Evaluation (April 30-May 11) is designed for health care organizations and health program managers who need to plan and implement evaluation schemes to ensure efficient and effective program implementations. Preventive Dentistry (May 7-11) is for licensed dentists who work either in government or NGOs. It is also suitable for private practitioners and other health professionals keenly interested in updating their knowledge and skills in preventive measures and community dentistry. One of its main features is preventive program planning with emphasis on cost-benefit analysis. Human Resource Management in Health Sector (May 15-19) is designed for supervisors and managers who share line and staff responsibilities in managing human resources in health care organizations. Hospital Financial Management (May 21-25) is for government and private hospital managers, accountants, budget officers and other supervisors who are responsible for the efficient and effective financial management and operations of a hospital. Quality Management in Health Services (May 21-22) is an advanced course that will help participants to further enhance knowledge and skills in defining, measuring and improving health care performance as applied in specific identified problem areas. For more inquiries, please call up Ofelia Gatpo or Ester Curry at (632) 523-2997 and 400-2932 or through e-mail: dhpa@cph.upm.edu.ph.

The case of the coalescing rashes

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M.D.

MEDICAL FILES

LEO is a 17-year-old college sophomore at the Adventist University of the Philippines. He was apparently well until two weeks prior to his recent hospital admission when he developed sore throat and a low-grade fever. It was the week of his finals and he couldn't afford to miss his classes and exams. He self-medicated with over-the-counter antipyretics that gave only temporary relief.

A week later, he started having muscle and joint pains, specially both ankle joints. Walking to class from the university dormitory gave him excruciating pain. This was soon followed by the appearance of reddish-purplish rashes over both lower extremities up to his buttocks. A day or two later, the rashes coalesced and formed big palpable rashes ranging from one to three centimeters in diameter. As some rashes faded, a new crop of rashes would appear, this time involving the upper extremities and other parts of the body.

Agony was written all over Leo's face as he gallantly finished his final exam. He was brought by his classmates to the university clinic, which promptly referred him to the Manila Sanitarium & Hospital where immediate confinement was advised by the emergency room officer.

Dr. Ana Marie Ulit, the medical resident, thoroughly examined Leo. Although Leo also had fever, his skin rashes looked different from rashes caused by infection such as measles, dengue and other virus. Dr. Ulit had seen different types of rashes in her medical residency, but Leo presented with a different type. Dr. Elmer Linao, the hospital's chief resident, ventured a diagnosis of vasculitis, which is the inflammation and bursting of the small blood vessels. He wasn't sure though which type of vasculitis it was. Blood and urine tests were done.

Unusual disease

Leo was referred to Dr. Ivy Rivera, a young specialist in arthritis and joint diseases. Based on the history, appearance of the coalescing rashes and preliminary laboratory tests, she diagnosed Leo as having Henoch-Schonlein purpura.

Henoch-Schonlein purpura, or HSP, is also known as allergic purpura. It causes swelling or inflammation of the small blood vessels that may be due to an abnormal immune reaction. This is called an autoimmune reaction, meaning that one's immune system reacts adversely to its own tissues.

A fairly uncommon disease, HSP affects mainly young children but may also affect teenagers and adults. A preceding respiratory tract infection is commonly elicited in the patient's history. Allergy to drugs has also been implicated as another cause. It may develop suddenly, with a short course of illness, or it may develop gradually and last a long time. The main problem is the involvement of the small blood vessels in the skin, joints, gastrointestinal tract, or kidneys, which become inflamed and leak.

As in Leo's case, what is characteristic is the appearance of small areas of purplish spots called purpura. The purplish spots are due to leakage of blood from the skin vessels and are most often seen on the feet, legs, arms and buttocks. These spots may coalesce and become raised and hard after several days. Crops of new spots may break out several weeks after the first ones appear.

Swelling and pain of the ankles, hips, knees, wrists and elbows are common, and are usually accompanied by fever. Patients may also present with abdominal cramps that may suggest bleeding in the intestines. Half of patients would also have blood in the urine, called hematuria.

Kidney damage

Recovery is expected within a month, but HSP may also be recurrent with the symptoms appearing and disappearing several times. One of the dreaded complications of HSP is permanent damage to the kidneys.

The diagnosis of HSP is initially based on the appearance of the characteristic skin rashes accompanied by typical symptoms. If blood or urine tests suggest kidney involvement, a needle biopsy may be done by removing a small sample of kidney tissue with a needle for examination under the microscope. This will confirm the diagnosis of HSP and determine the extent of kidney damage. Doing a biopsy of the skin lesions can also provide additional confirmation of the diagnosis.

Since HSP may be occasionally caused by drug allergy, whatever drug is suspected should be discontinued immediately. Corticosteroids such as prednisone may help relieve swelling, joint and abdominal pains, but they don't prevent kidney damage. Immunosuppressive drugs, or drugs that suppress the immune system such as azathioprine or cyclophosphamide, are sometimes used if kidney damage develops, but their efficacy is not well established.

Leo was given drugs to suppress the swelling and inflammation. He went home without fever and joint pains after several days. His skin rashes also started to disappear. His urine and blood tests did not suggest kidney damage yet, but he was warned by Dr. Rivera that kidney involvement may appear later. Hence, monitoring the kidneys is imperative four to six months after affliction with HSP.

Leo passed all his final exams. He can never forget his Calculus exam. The questions were really tough. But Leo proved tougher, taking it as he agonized with fever and severe joint pains.

(Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph.)

Messages

MALACANAN PALACE
Manila

Warmest felicitations to the Drugstores Association of the Philippines on its Simultaneous Nationwide Medical Mission 2001.

This event with the theme, "DSAP: Healing the Nation", speaks well of your noble commitment to promote the health of our people. Your work in giving health services around the country is a significant step in achieving total healthcare especially for the marginalized sectors of our society. I commend the DSAP for its work in creating a better quality of life for our people.

Drugstores are vital in providing our people better access to medicines that are safe, effective and affordable. A healthy citizenry is essential in achieving greater national development. The fulfillment of total healthcare in our people enables them to reach their fullest potential as individuals and as members of our society.

The strategic partnership of the government and the Drugstores Association of the Philippines provide impetus and dynamism to our common pursuit of quality healthcare for all Filipinos. Let us work together in healing and rebuilding our nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the Drugstores Association of the Philippines (DSAP) in the conduct of their Simultaneous Nationwide Medical Missions on April 28, 2001.

Your theme "DSAP: Healing the Nation" is very relevant nowadays in the face of the many problems besetting the country in the area of health, especially in relation to the soaring prices of drugs. The pharmacists and drugstore owners can help the DOH in guiding consumers to choose the most appropriate drug at the most appropriate price for their needs.

The Department of Health can always be called upon to render technical and professional assistance to your association, even as I call upon all of you to support the Department in all its present programs aimed at protecting the interest of our Filipino consumers, especially the poor.

"Healing the Nation" starts from within. A path paved beautifully always starts from the right beginning.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D.,M Sc.
Secretary of Health

Greetings to the Drugstores Association of the Philippines as a partner in the healthcare delivery system. The Bureau of Food and Drugs congratulate DSAP for conducting a simultaneous nationwide medical mission . Your selected theme healing the nation, is most appropriate in this most trying times for more than 60% of Filipinos, who can not afford to have a decent healthcare system.

This activity supplements the health sector reform agenda of the department of health which is, to improve the health status of all Filipinos.

Again, congratulations and more power to DSAP

WILLIAM D. TORRES Ph D.
Director, BFAD

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dsap DrugStores Association of the Philippines

DSAP CELEBRATES FOUNDATION MONTH

Free Medical Clinics Nationwide Today

Patient gets helping hand from AFP doctor during one of regular DSAP medical missions in the provinces.

Gloria N. De Chavez, DSAP president, signs Memorandum of Agreement on "Healing the Nation" project with MEPI president Beau G. Agana III, as DSAP public information committee chair Angelito Q. Inton looks on.

Today, April 28, the DrugStores Association of the Philippines (DSAP) makes a difference in the nation's life when medical teams fan out across the archipelago to simultaneously conduct a free clinic in various towns and cities, benefiting thousands from the underprivileged sector of society.

Dubbed "Healing the Nation," the one-day landmark event is the centerpiece project of the DSAP in observance of its 17th foundation this month. It is the first health project of such magnitude ever to be undertaken in the country by any private local group, whether singly or in conjunction with other organizations. Similarly, it is the first joint venture on a national scale between DSAP and the Marketing Executives of the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Industry, Inc. (MEPI).

Formed in April 1984, DSAP is the country's lone drugstore organization, comprising some 1,500 individual drugstore-members with more than 4,000 outlets nationwide. The Association has since formed 36 chapters throughout the country, and counting MEPI, on the other hand, is the organization of about 100 pharmaceutical marketing executives and professionals, representing at least 70 local and multinational drug firms.

Gift to Nation

"DSAP does not hold grand celebrations of its foundation ever since," Gloria N. De Chavez, DSAP president, said. "This year, we will do so by way of freely sharing our time, effort, and resources to the people, our customers.... the lifeline of drugstores. This is the biggest blow-out we could give the nation and ourselves today."

De Chavez added that DSAP aims to make "Healing the Nation" an annual activity to be held every April even as the 36 chapters are free to conduct medical clinics on their own anytime, as they have been doing regularly. "DSAP thinks it is such a good idea for us drugstore owners to put aside our business concerns, hold what may be called the 'mother of all free medical clinics,'and reach out to our fellowmen nationwide - all in one swoop, all in a single day," she said.

First Joint Project

MEPI is just as enthusiastic about ensuring the success of "Healing the Nation" and making it a yearly tradition.

"Being the first major joint effort of MEPI and DSAP, a lot of brainstorming, planning and coordinatingwork have gone into the project since last year," MEPI president Beau G. Agana III emphasized. "The common goal is to boost MEPI's and DSAP's confidence in sustaining the project as an annual activity, and the only way to do that is to make sure there are no major hitches on D-day."

Agana said that this early, both groups are training their vision onto "Healing the Nation 2002," and other joint socio-civic projects in between.

"This project opens the gateway to more potential areas of cooperation between DSAP and MEPI that make an impact on the health and well-being of the public. On a macro view, it has strengthened the working relations between the pharmaceutical supply and distribution sectors in the country," Agana stressed.

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DSAP: Service, Selflessness, Solidarity

The DrugStores Association of the Philippines traces its roots in 1984 when a group of 28 drug wholesalers, retailers, and chain store operators saw the importance of establishing a strong unified organization to serve the needs of drugstore owners and customers. Such an organization was also meant to strengthen the partnership between the drugstore sector and the manufacturers, distributors, as well as government in addressing the needs of the public.

On April 14 that year, the pioneering group elected the initial set of officers at the Quezon City Sports Club. DSAP was thus officially born.

Mission of Service

Then and now, DSAP anchors all its activities on one mission: to strengthen unity among members by providing avenues for inter-chapter communication, education and training, and pooling of resources. The ultimate objective is to keep DSAP as a united, responsive, and responsible force, not only in the business community but, more important, in the country's healthcare sector.

Objectives

· To seek better ways for drugstores to serve the needs of the nation and the buying public the operations of drugstores in the country, foster the highest ethical standards in the business, and promote excellence in the practice of the pharmacy profession at the drugstore level

· To strengthen unity among all drugstores in the country by serving as center for cooperation, collaboration, and exchange of information on matters pertaining to drugstore operations; serve as a data bank for all information, documents, and records related to the drugstore business

· To launch and sustain activities and projects designed to enhance and improve

· To preserve harmony and promote growth in the industry by sustaining mutually beneficial relationship with government and its agencies, as well as by establishing strong affiliation with key public agencies and private organizations.

· To pool resources of member-drugstores in support of national development as well as for the benefit of DSAP members

· To represent drugstore members in all public and private forums on pertinent Issues and to coordinate with government and its agencies on the formulationand enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations governing the drugstore industry

· To strengthen the partnership with drug manufacturers, distributors, and othersegments of the pharmaceutical industry

dsap
Induction Ceremony of the
National Officers &
Board of Directors

Bureau of Food and Drugs Deputy Director Kenneth Hartigan-Go *(2nd, R)* poses with DSAP 2001 officers, led by president Gloria N. De Chavez *(7th, L)*, at induction ceremony he presided with DSAP *president-emeritus* Dioscoro Rodolfo *(R)*. DSAP 2001-2003 officers are Emilene Madriaga-Ablaza, *vp-internal*; Rodel Vizconde, *vp-external*; Emma Trinidad-Caramat, *secretary*; Vilma Cordova, *treasurer*; Araceli Pe Benito, *auditor*; and *directors* Dorothy L. Cruz, Anabella Balingit, Celia Carlos, Reynaldo Paring, John Inocencio, Karena May Kho, Enalin De Mesa, Emelina Caritativo, and *ex-oficio director* Angel Margarito Caramat, Jr.

From Minority to Maturity

The pursuit of these objectives has paved the way for DSAP's growth and ascent to a position of leadership in the national healthcare spectrum.

From the core group of 28 largely Metro Manila-based members, DSAP today boasts a membership of 1,500 individual members operating nearly 4,000 drugstores, grouped in 36 chapters nationwide.

Practically a non-entity during its early years, the Association now stands side by with other professional and business societies in the frontlines of healthcare delivery. No longer, too, is DSAP an insignificant minority whose opinion hardly mattered. Today, it speaks as one voice and exchanges views with, and influences the opinion of, the other key players in the Philippine healthcare industry.

More significantly, DSAP actively participates in the formulation and amendment of laws, rules and regulations on the delivery of healthcare services to the public, particularly those directly related to drugstore operations. It has attended consultative conferences and meetings on, among others, amending the Special Law on Counterfeit Drugs, drafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Senior Citizens Act, and improving the implementation of theGenerics Act as it relates to dispensing.

Industry, Professional Linkages

While "Healing the Nation" is the first formal institutional partnership between DSAP and the Marketing Executives of the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Industry, Inc. (MEPI), the Association has undertaken countless projects and activities with individual drug firms which are members of MEPI. These include regular medical missions or clinics that DSAP provincial chapters conduct to benefit the communities where they operate.

Tie-up schemes have also been developed with specific companies designed to promote the business of DSAP member-drugstores, not to mention the collaboration between DSAP and the manufacturing and supply sector in helping ensure the continued growth of the entire pharmaceutical industry and in maintaining its responsiveness to the needs of the public.

At the professional level, DSAP maintains strategic relations with the Philippine Pharmaceutical Association (PPhA), the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association of the Philippines, and other business and professional societies.

MEPI

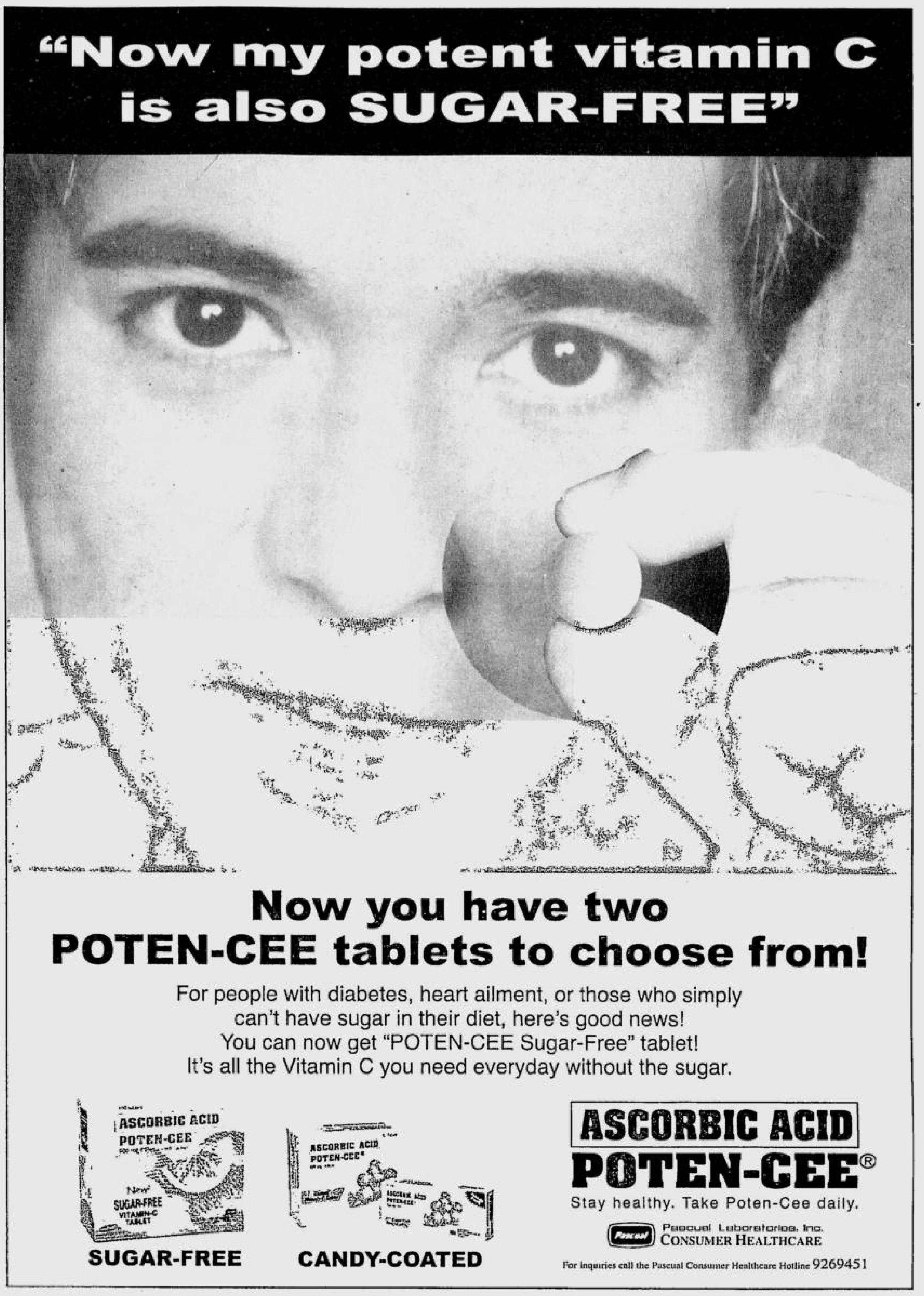
Epitome of Marketing Excellence

The beginnings of Marketing Executives of the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Industry, Inc. or MEPI can be likened to DSAP's. In 1989, a handful of pharmaceutical marketing practitioners from multinational drug firms (MNCs) saw and felt the need for the free exchange of information among themselves about their profession, marketing as a discipline, and the industry as a whole.

Soon enough, what started as just a virtual 'breakfast' club came to be known as MEPI: a formal organization of pharmaceutical marketing executives commited to excellence so that, individually, the member-firms may respond more efficiently to the nation's needs.

From the group of a few individuals who banded 12 years ago, MEPI's membership has swelled over the years. Today, it counts 100 individual members representing 70 Filipino companies and MNCs.

As part of its social commitment, MEPI regularly enters into collaborative efforts with the various key players in the healthcare industry, the drugstore sector including, in pursuing socio-civic projects and programs. Internally, MEPI promotes the value of marketing excellence and the spirit of healthy competition through the annual search for the Top Sales Representative, Top District Sales Manager, and TopProduct Manager among the member firms. It also conducts education and training of marketing neophytes of pharmaceutical companies.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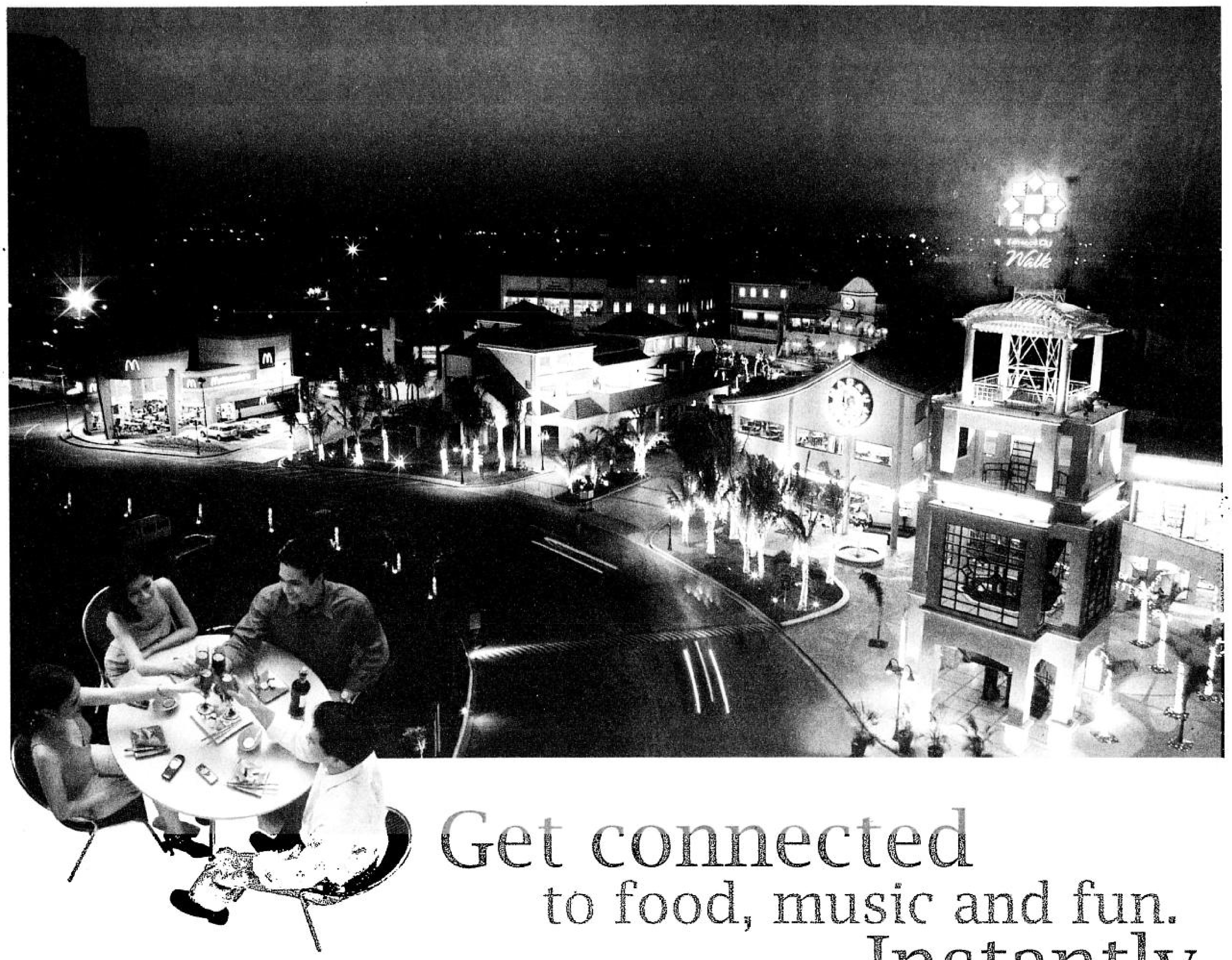

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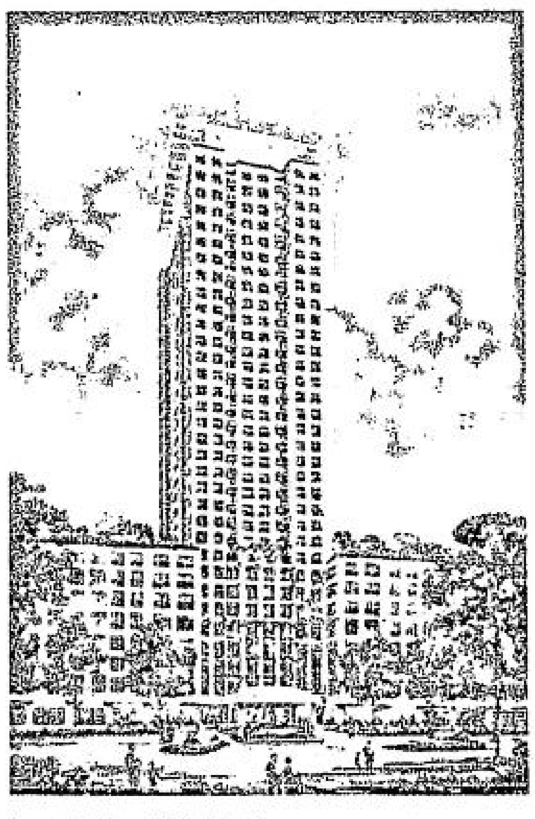

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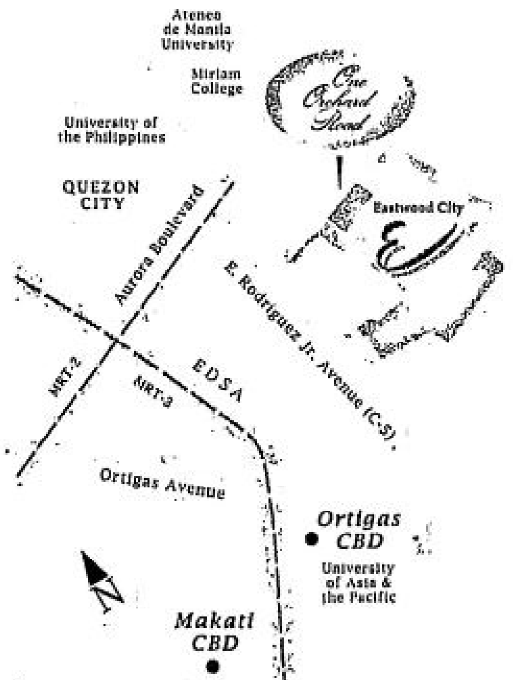
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Apple Cream Cravings

1-1/2 cups flour
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3/4 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup NESTLE CREAM
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup pitted and chopped prunes
2 apples, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup brown sugar, combined with
2 tbsps. chopped almonds or walnuts
1 170 g. can NESTLE CREAM, chilled

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Cut in butter until pea sized pieces. Blend in brown sugar, then cream until mixture is evenly moist. Set aside. Arrange prunes and apples in a buttered oven-proof dish. Sprinkle 1/2 cup sugar on top of fruits then put in cobbler mixture. Top with sugar-almond mixture and bake 35 min. at 350°F. Serve warm with a dollop of cream on top.

Makes: *18 - 2 inch square pieces

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

SATURDAY,
APRIL 28, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

C1

Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor ▨ EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Treat
of the
Week

Nestle
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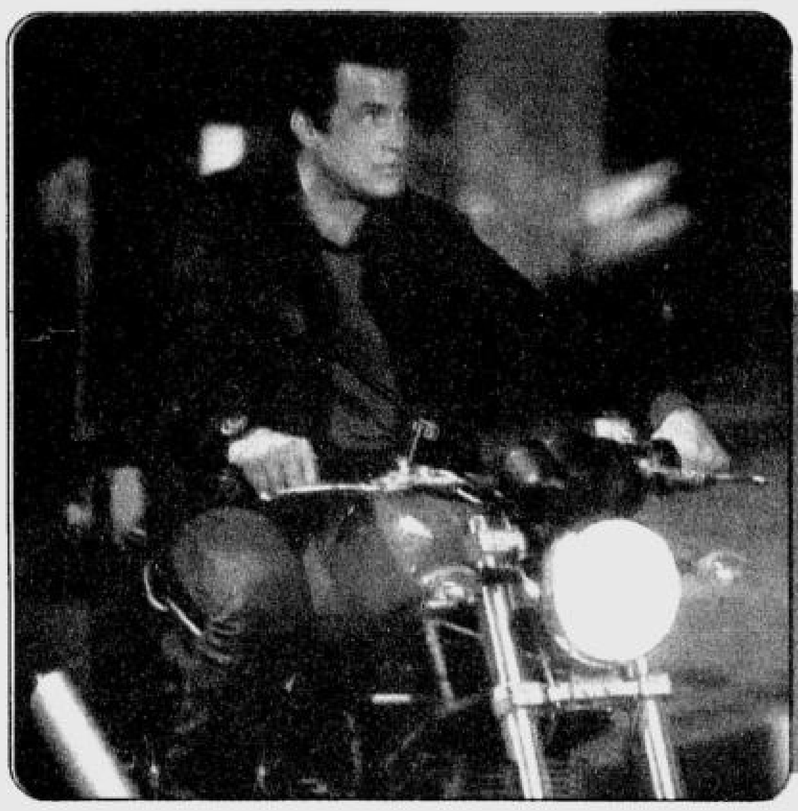
Steven Seagal reenters film scene with 'Exit Wounds'



'I was more interested in the good cop-bad cop aspect of the film'

IN WARNER Bros.' No. 1 blockbuster "Exit Wounds," Steven Seagal returns to the genre that made him a leading worldwide action superstar with such films as "Nico," "Hard to Kill," "Out for Justice" "Under Siege" and "Executive Decision."

Resonance

"The role of Orin Boyd in 'Exit Wounds' has a real resonance for Steven," producer Joel Silver says. "He has played the super-cop. Now he's playing the other side of that and there is a real honesty to his performance."

Seagal himself found a kinship in the role of Orin Boyd. "Boyd's been around for a long time and he knows the job very, very well," says the actor. "He's just not very good at playing the politics, which is true of many of us. Nothing surprises him anymore; he has seen some pretty bad things in his time. But he doesn't allow himself to be consumed by it."

"Orin Boyd is the ultimate underdog," says director Andrzej Bartkowiak, who made his big screen directorial debut on "Romeo Must Die." "He may have been demoted from detective to crossing guard, but he's not going to let them break his spirit—he's going to do whatever it takes to bring down the bad guys."

Great moment

Bartkowiak continues, "There's a great moment in the film where Boyd returns to the locker room after his first day on traffic duty and puts his whistle and his hat back into his locker, stands there for a moment, and then lets out this long sigh. We realize that he realizes that he has hit rock bottom. That's a very human moment that I think everyone can identify with."

Seagal also enjoyed the comedic moments the material afforded him. "There are a lot of funny situations involving my character in the film," says Seagal. "I get sent to an anger management class; I'm demoted to a traffic cop; and there's a scene I particularly like where I bust in on my commander when she's on a date. I throw her date out and sit down and eat his food. Boyd may be down on his luck but he hasn't completely lost his sense of humor."

Get to know more about Seagal's experiences in filming "Exit Wounds" in the following interview:

Question: Steven, are you a rap music fan?

Seagal: I don't know if I am a rap fan, but I'm definitely a hip hop fan. I love hip hop and I think Joel Silver had this interesting idea marrying Kung Fu with hip hop in the film [LAUGH]. The action, the wardrobe and the music made for a really unusual fusion of excitement.

Did you decide to do this film because of that fusion of martial arts and hip hop?

To be honest, in the beginning I didn't know much about the plans for the film. I think Joel Silver cooked that up as we were going along. Everyday he was thinking of something different. I was more interested in the good cop-bad cop aspect of the film. That's what hooked me.

As you get older, has anything changed for you in your ability to do action?

I don't think anything's changed. I think I can still do all the things I used to do.

What was the most surprising thing about working with DMX?

I like to do my research and I investigated him quite well before we began, so there were no surprises. DMX was a gentleman with me; reflective, thoughtful, gentle. People ask how he was as an actor and I say, just look at the movie. The guy is acting and he is as good as anybody. It's good acting.

STEVEN / p.C2

Tobey Maguire in top fighting form in 'Spider Man'

COLUMBIA'S "Spider Man" isn't due until May 3, 2002, but the usual web of secrecy is missing. "We want to save some surprises," says director Sam Raimi. "But we're not going to torture the audience." In fact the studio' has released this exclusive first look at a Spider-suited Tobey Maguire—yep, that's him in the form-fitting body glove designed by Oscar winner James Acheson.

Special effects

"It took a little getting used to," admits the newly buff 25-year-old, who will be leaping and swinging "Crouching Tiger" style via wires and special effects. No kung fu, though.

"It is based on tension—and is one piece—all the way from the boots to the top of the head," says Acheson. "The boots have actually been built into the suit."

Lenses

Acheson also revealed tidbits about the helmet, which contains lenses by Oakley. Also of note, the suit is printed with a computer-generated rectangular pattern in order to create an illusion of dimensionality—an almost 3-D effect. There are over 120 individual silk screens on the suit, for shading and highlighting.

The suit's web has been molded in latex and dyed, but the actual design has been cut by computerized cutters. Teams of gluers and painters handglued the web onto the compressed suit and handpainted the web with various metallic finishes.

THE SPIDER Man costume was in development for six months.

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Focus on Annette and Angelu

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Mary Ann A. Bautista

I'M an avid fan of Annette Bening. Please tell me where and when she was born. How did she end up ith Warren Beatty? Please give me list of her past movies and her upcoming ones."—*Anonymous, Imus, Cavite*

"I'm a fan of Angelu de Leon. I vatched all her movies with her *ka*-love team Bobby Andrews. I'm a bit disappointed that her relationship vith Bobby didn't become real. Moreso when her turbulent relationship with Joko Diaz made her a single parent. wonder if she's coping well. Please ive me more information about her ife as a mother. Thanks.— *Belen osales, Cawagan, New Washington, klan*

BENING. Her first love is the theater.

DE LEON. Doesn't want to get hurt again.

Annette Bening

Real Name: Annette Francine Bening

Birth date: May 29, 1958

Birthplace: Topeka, Kansas

Parents: Grant and Shirley Bening

Older Siblings: Jane, Brad and Byron

Height: 5'9

Husband: Warren Beatty

Children with Warren: Kathlyn Elizabeth (born Jan. 8, 1992); Benjamin (born Aug. 3, 1994); Isabel Ira Ashley (born Jan. 18, 1997); Ella Corinne (born April 8, 2000)

Filmography: "The Great Outdoors," Valmont," "Postcards from the Edge," The Grifters," "Regarding Henry," Guilty By Suspicion," "Bugsy," "Love Affair," "Richard III," "The American President," "Mars Attacks!" "The Siege" 'In Dreams," "American Beauty," 'What Planet Are You From."

With films like "The Siege" and Dreams," Annette Bening is tagged as 'the thinking man's sex symbol." She is seldom included in Hollywood's A-list but she gives solid performances in all her films.

Her first love is theater. In 1999, she played the title role in Henrik Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler" at the Los Angeles' Geffen Playhouse.

"The play's exploration of gender identity is one of the most challenging female roles around. I love the day-to-day work of being a stage actress but killing myself every night got to me," Annette says about her stage acting experience.

Annette's interest in theater began when her family relocated to San Diego when she was very young. She was enrolled in a local college when she got a job as a dancer in a show. This led to several more plays with the San Diego Repertory Theater.

When she graduated from the San Francisco State University, she trained at the American Conservatory, then joined an acting company. She also appeared in summer Shakespeare festivals and regional productions.

Onscreen, Annette can be a chameleon, fitting in each role perfectly. Her first film, "The Great Outdoors" received sharp criticism, but the negative comments were directed at John Candy and Dan Aykroyd.

Still, it took her two years to get over the criticism and do films like "Valmont" and "Postcards from the Edge" with Meryl Streep.

In 1990, her performance as a sensuous con woman in "The Grifters" earned her an Oscar nomination as Best Supporting Actress. She did not win the award but she caught Warren Beatty's eye and he cast her in "Bugsy."

Annette and Warren were supposed to meet in the late '80s for the casting of "Dick Tracy." The director was involved with Warren's co-star, Madonna and cancelled one meeting. Annette was having trouble in her waning first marriage (to theater director J. Steven White), and cancelled another meeting. In the end, Warren cast Virginia Hill as his love interest in "Dick Tracy."

Warren and Annette were drawn to each other during the production of "Bugsy." The romance was seen as a high-wire act because of Warren's past romantic relationships. "I had so much confidence in the present that I never worried about Warren's past. All romances are a leap of faith," Annette intones.

Annette relishes her role as a mom more. Parenthood is something that she doesn't take lightly. Each time she'd become pregnant, she'd forego major parts including Demi Moore's character in "Disclosure" and Michelle Pfeiffer's role in "Batman Returns."

Angelu de Leon

Birthday. August 22, 1979

Sports & Hobbies: Collecting all kinds of books, surfing the net, cross-stitching.

Dream: To be a good mother

Her biggest fear: That her daughter Nicole falls in love at a young age too.

At 21, Angelu de Leon is thrilled about being a mother. Her daughter, Maria Louise Nicole gives her joy and fulfillment.

"My daughter helps me to see life in a different way. I have to be responsible enough to know what's right and wrong for her. When I'm with her I try not to act my age because I want her to know that I'm her mom. I became mature and at the same time she shows me that life can be fun. Looking at her at the end of the day dispels the exhaustion I feel," Angelu beams.

Angelu has gotten over her failed relationship with Joko Diaz. But she will never forget that Joko is the father of Nicole, even if he fails to give financial support. She has learned not to expect anything from him.

"I want Nicole to get close to him because he's still her father. Emotionally, I have to let him go. I'm not very choosy with the guys I date. My only requirement is that my suitor accepts and respects me," Angelu adds.

Angelu admits that her mom trusts her more, so her friendships with her dates are free from animosity and friction. She's not ready to fall in love yet because she still wants to grow emotionally.

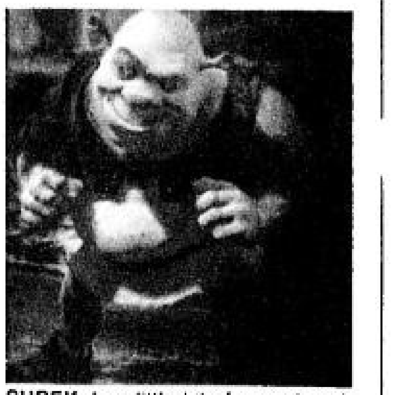
"I still have to overcome my fear of getting hurt again. I want to change a few things about myself before I enter into another relationship. I don't want to get hurt anymore so I plan to enjoy the getting-to-know-you stage of a relationship," she shares.

Her rivalry with Judy Ann Santos and Claudine Barretto helps her improve her acting skills. She believes that being a mother made her more sensitive and intense. She considers motherhood a blessing in disguise because she can now play mature roles. Is another movie with her love team partner, Bobby Andrews, far-fetched?

"Maybe Bobby is not ready to work with me, or he's just waiting for the right time. Maybe he wants to focus on his family, too. Movies might not be his priority right now. We haven't talked or seen each other for a long time. We probably need a mature movie to revive our team-up," Angelu says.

Getting to know Shrek

By Nestor U. Torre



SHREK. In a little bit of ogre denial.

WHEN I tell friends and colleagues that I've come back form a trip to Los Angeles and Palo Alto, California to cover the making of Dreamwoks-PDI's latest animated feature, "Shrek," they invariably ask why the movie has been given such a weird title.

Ogre

Well, I answer, because the film's title character *is* weird. He's an ogre—and you don't name ogres Claude, Diether or Tiffany. Yes, Shrek sounds just right for an 'orrible ogre's name.

Specially when he's smelly, green and rather anti-social, as he's depicted in the movie. And yet, he's drawn and voiced so cannily in the film that he could end up as this year's new movie superstar (move over, Woody and Buzz Lightyear).

Mike Myers, who's become a superstar himself after the great success enjoyed by his "Austin Powers" starrers, has been tapped to give Shrek his voice, and savvily analyzes his cartoon character's best claim to fame:

"Shrek is an ogre who has yet to come to terms with his own ogreness. He's actually in a little bit of ogre denial!" It's this combination of nastiness *and* relative innocence that makes it possible for Shrek to emerge as the movie's unusual "hero," despite his being an ogre.

"Shrek" takes an old message—beauty (or ugliness) is in the eye of the beholder—and gives it a PG twist by making fun of clichés associated with traditional fairy-tale movies, often quite rudely and irreverently.

This "fairy-tale bashing" approach makes the movie popular with teenage viewers, who just love it when dearly-loved icons are held up to fond ridicule.

Humor

Co-director Andrew Adamson compares the film's humor to "Monty Python" (when it's smart) and "There's Something About Mary" (when it's gross).

To illustrate the latter kind, he reveals, "Shrek doesn't have the usual social inhibitions about bodily functions. For instance, he fishes by farting in the lake, and all the fish float to the surface."

A cartoon with a farting lead?! "Shrek" *is* different from "Snow White!" This is all about keeping up with the times, doing something radically unconventional, and expanding the audience for animated features from their usual kiddie crowd, to include teenagers and even adults.

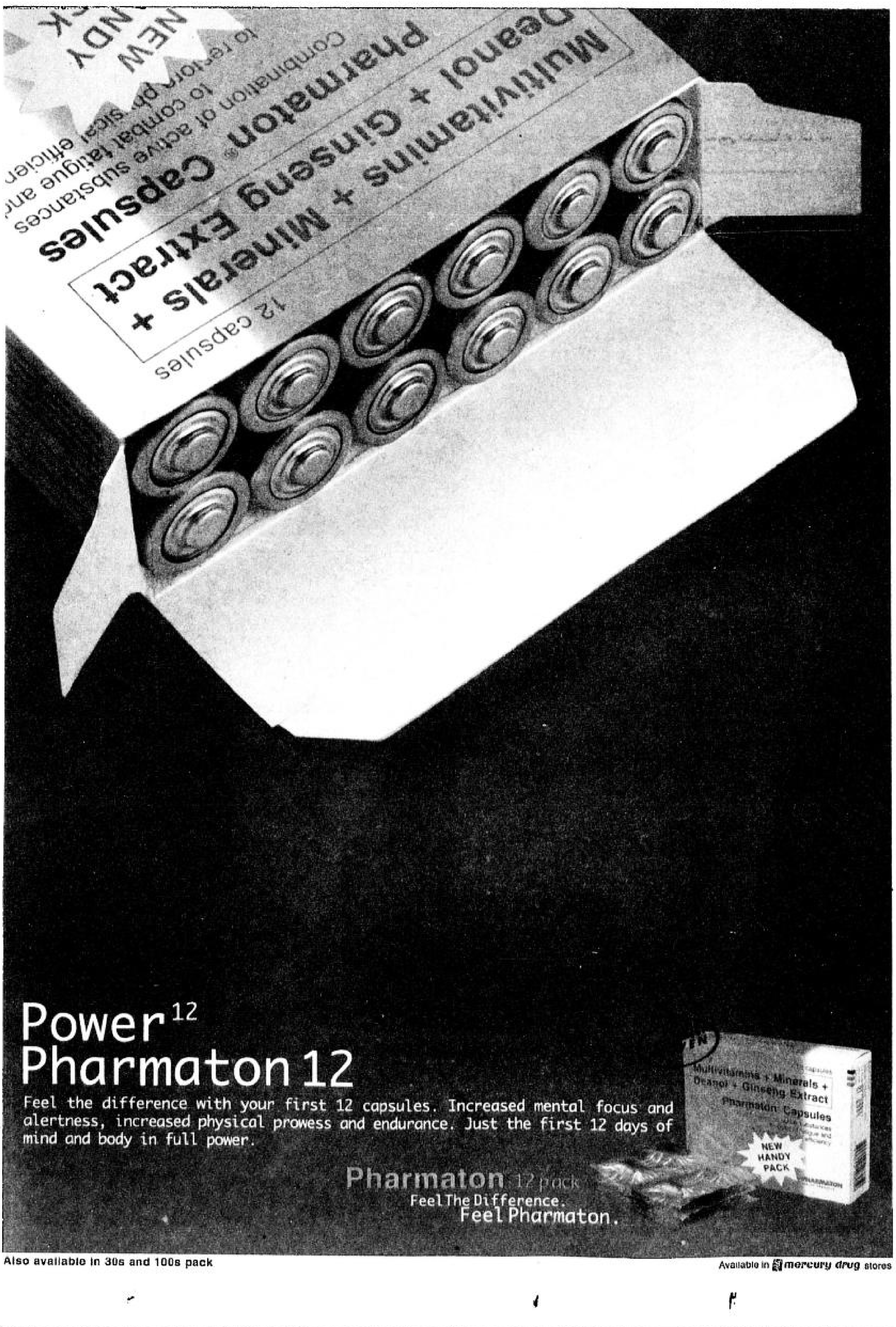
Story

The film's story: The ogre's life of solitude is disrupted when fairy-tale creatures get kicked out of their kingdom by Lord Farquaad (voiced by John Lithgow), and bedtime-story characters from "Seven Dwarfs," "Three Little Pigs" and "Sleeping Beauty" take refuge in Shrek's swamp.

Eager to get rid of the interlopers, Shrek strikes a deal with Farquaad: He rescues a princess (Cameron Diaz) whom the evil lord wants to marry. For added kicks, Eddie Murphy voices Shrek's sidekick, a donkey named Donkey (but of course).

The film's state-of-the-art technical effects have hit it big with preview audiences. Adamson adds that the production aimed for a "a simplification of form and a richness of color because we wanted it to look like a storybook come to life."

The production's army of animators has pushed the envelope, specially in the areas of depicting humans and liquids, among the most difficult feats to pull off well in the entire field of animation. *(To be concluded)*



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Boracay Body Search finals held today

By Monica S. Gutierrez

BERGONIA. Ramp experience.

FOR many people, their idea of a perfect vacation is white sand, crystal clear waters, the sun and the surf. Relaxation. Just enough of a burn to show that you went to the beach this summer. The best beach to go? Why, Boracay, of course!

Today, April 28, 20 young men and women who just happen to have great sets of pecs and abs, will be doing precisely that. Although one doubts if they will be anything but relaxed throughout their stay at the beach. These 20 men and women are going to the Pearl of the Pacific Beach Resort to vie for the top prizes of the Boracay Body Search 2001, so relaxation is not on the top of their agenda.

The 20 finalists of the Boracay Body Search 2001 were presented to the media last April 18 at the Grand Boulevard Hotel on Roxas Boulevard. This is the contest's second year, after a very successful tilt held last year.

According to the organizers, they are looking for men and women who possess well-toned physiques that have been untouched by medical and surgical alterations. In other words, no visits to Dr. Bello, no doses of steroids to attain those bulging muscles. Everything must have been gained through sheer hard work at the gym, rigorous dieting, or any other natural health regimen.

The contest stresses this because the organizers want to focus on the natural beauty that the human body can attain. Besides, what is the point of celebrating the human body, if it has been tampered with by medical science?

Eliminations

The rigorous eliminations were held at Hard Rock Café last April 2, Mas Y Mas last April 4, Limits Disco on April 5 and at O Two Bistro Bar last April 6. After this series, the organizers came up with these 10 men and 10 women, who will compete tonight.

The male finalists are Ronald Villar, Frederico Nepomuceno, Tristan Supelena, Gerald Navarro, Jefrey Navarro, Joel Tarca, Oscar de Guzman, Jonnel Custodio, Joel Esmeralda and Edward Bantegui.

The female finalists: Natal[illegible] Tuazon, Midsy dela Cruz, Rocele Bergonia, Paula Tesoro, Arlene Son, Mary Grace Lacson, Eliza Raymundo, Precy Pinaroc, E[illegible]hanie Centino and Kimberly Gonzales.

This batch of contestants was no bad-looking at all. All the male contestants had beautifully maintained bodies. It turns out, a few of them work as gym instructors as well. And there are no chicken-legged candidates! The male contestants all had well-proportioned bodies, with leg sizes appropriately matching their chest sizes. Press favorites were candidates who possessed not only a beautiful physique, but a beautiful face as well.

Boyish appeal

In the male category, the press rushed to interview candidate No. 4, Gerald Navarro, who with his boyish appeal is a Onemig Bondoc look-alike. Candidate No. 7, Oscar de Guzman, is into rapping, and comes out on "Keep On Dancing." Candidate No. 8, Jonnel Custodio and dusky Joel Esmeralda, Candidate No. 9, a graduate of Physical Therapy from UST, were also favorites.

Both Joel and Jonnel are ramp models. It was quite obvious who among the candidates have had modeling experience as they knew how to carry themselves and project an air of confidence.

The female candidates were all quite gorgeous (unlike in some contests). Press favorite was candidate No. 6, Mary Grace Lacson, who not only has the looks, but possesses the fullest figure among all the candidates. She is a veteran of these contests, having joined the Calendar Girl contest on TV, placing third in the finals.

Candidates No. 3 (Rocele Bergonia) and 4 (Paula Tesoro), walked down the ramp with attitude, indicating past modeling experiences. Candidate No. 5 Arlene Son, also a former Calendar Girl, also caught people's eyes.

Steven Seagal . . .

(From page C1)

Can you explain how it was filming the combat scene between you and DMX?

That was the hardest moment in the movie, it was tough. He's not really a fighter and he has a little bit of a bad shoulder. During that sequence when I got behind him and I was supposed to grab him, his shoulder popped out. That was hard for me and it was hard for him.

Did you teach DMX any martial arts?

I showed him a few things, but it was mostly moves that (fight choreographer) Dion Lam came up with. Joel was smart to bring him in. It was great for me because, for the first time in my life, I sat back and did what I was told. Dion would choreograph everything and once in a while I threw some of my own moves in there. But most of the time it was Dion teaching DMX.

The New York premiere had a phenomenal reception. What is your reaction to that?

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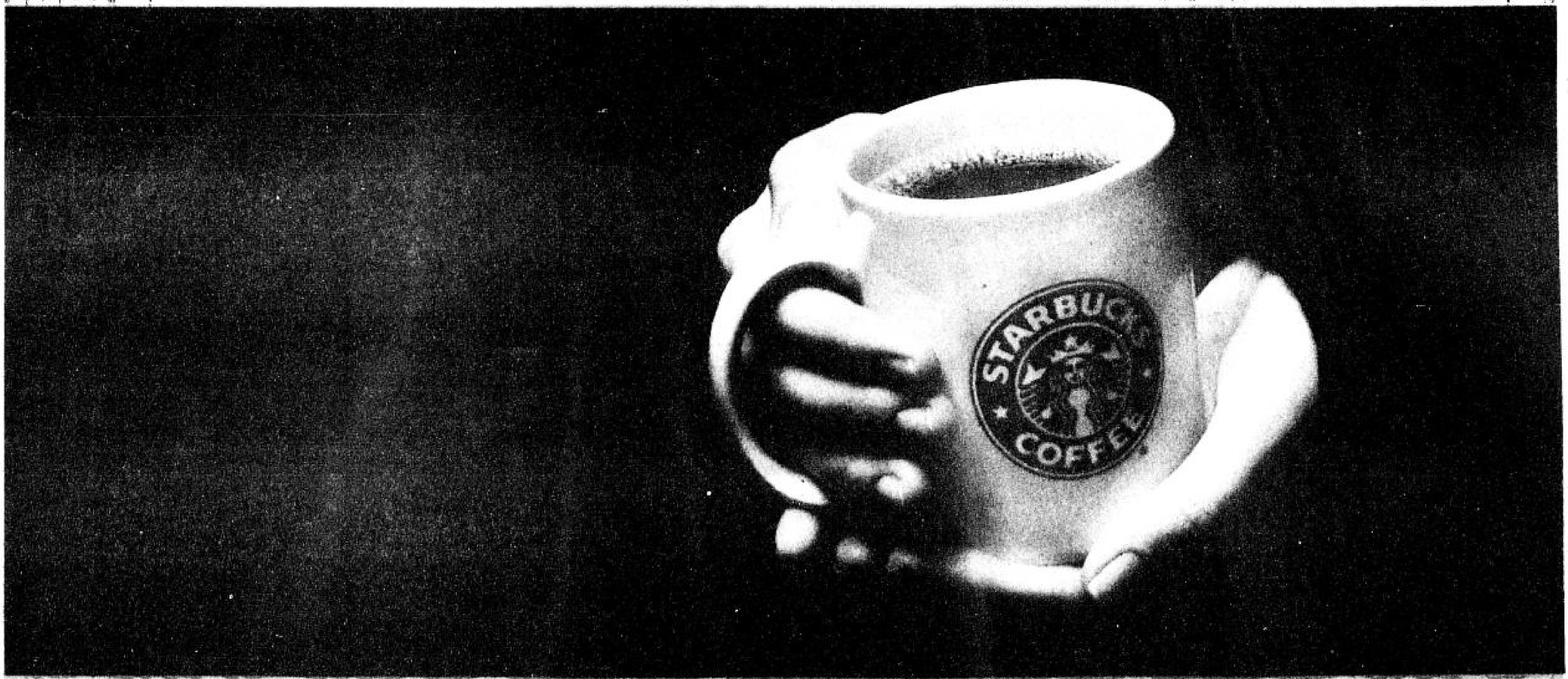

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Ricky and Jackielou's kids learn to love summer at outdoor camp

By Alex C. Brosas

LIKE any other Filipino parents, actors Ricky Davao and Jackielou Blanco were apprehensive about sending their two kids off to summer camp. For one thing, the kids being away from home on their own without a *yaya* to look after them would be a new experience.

Presence

It was only the presence of their manager and SNACK 2001 Camp Director Bibsy Carballo on the scene that convinced them to give it a try.

Thus, celebrity kids Kenneth, 12, and Rikki Mae Dabao, 8, packed their bags to join the five-day live-in summer camp at Taal Lake Yacht Club for kids ages 7-13, and now they both say the experience was like no other.

"I hardly even saw them for more than two minutes, much less talked to them," says Carballo.

"They were both so engrossed with new friends and activities that they couldn't be bothered."

The pioneering SNACK, short for Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids, now on its fifth camp, has consistently been based at the Taal Lake Yacht Club, Talisay, Batangas. A Halloween Camp was held in '99, and this year a mid-year SNACK for kids on the American schoolyear calendar will be held July 16-21, 2001 also at TLYC.

Bad habits

For Kenneth and Rikki Mae, the camp meant ridding themselves of some bad habits, bonding with children from various backgrounds, becoming more adventurous and independent, missing mom and dad and the comforts of home only occasionally, finding a crush, sharing secrets within the confines of a darkened tent, and discovering the stars at night and birds in the daytime.

SNACK has changed them in more ways than one. "*Si* Kenneth," shares Jackielou, "*ang hirap gisingin.*" But at camp, kids woke up at 5:30 a.m.—and Kenneth was no exception! Kenneth admits this is a major improvement for him.

"I can now wake up early, something that I was not so used to until I joined the camp," he grins. Kenneth adds that he also learned the value of independence and doing things on his own.

As for Rikki Mae, she says she is now more cooperative, has more confidence and can take care of herself when nobody is there to look after her. And she found a crush, 12-year-old Miguel Tuazon, ironically Kenneth's new bosom buddy. " I like his attitude. He's nice to me. He helps me carry my things," shares Rikki Mae. And Kenneth found his own crush!

Rikky Mae found most difficult the three-hour trek up Taal Volcano, down to the crater and back during Coleman Mountaineering with mountaineer counselors Banny Hermanos, Romy Valdes, Vilma Samson, and Nelia Pallorina.

"We ran out of water, and I missed iced water the most," she says. So much so that, when dad Ricky came to visit, she asked him to bring ice, which Ricky did.

Parents

"I berated him for that," laughingly recalls Carballo. "*Walang* ice *sa bundok,* I would remind Ricky, and we intend to train kids in that, just in case they find themselves in such a situation. *Pero naawa daw siya kay* Rikki Mae. *Ay naku,* parents!"

Carballo found Jackielou more cooperative. When she called Rikki Mae on the cell phone one night, the sound of her mom's voice made Rikki Mae homesick and cry on the phone. "I told Jackie to stop calling Rikki Mae, which she did *naman,* even if I knew it was very difficult for her."

Initially, Jackie says she had apprehensions about permitting her children to be away from her for five days. "To be honest, I was afraid I would miss them. But then I realized it would be good for them. But for a couple of days, *parang hindi ako sanay na wala sila* but I knew they were there to gain something. So, *kahit na* it was painful, *okay lang,*" she says.

RIKKI MAE tries her hand at archery.

THE TR OPS
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RICKY DAVAO attends SNACK 2001 graduation and gives awards to top Guess Kid Archers (l-r) Richelle Tuason (first placer), Bonn Adona, Jammy Cabochan, David Bautista, & Fiel John Villafana.

KENNETH (right) and friend Miguel won the double kayak race.

For one thing, continues Jackie, the two kids gained new friends. "*Ngayon, kahit tapos na ang* SNACK *nagtatawagan pa sila.* Rikki Mae even called a new friend Richele (Tuason, 13) to attend her baby sister's birthday party."

Although Jackie was away from her children when she was on her Australia and US tour with her mom, the feeling of not being with her family still disturbed her.

Opportunities

However, she knows that "there's a time when you just have to let go, especially when it will benefit them. How selfish *naman* of me to deprive them of opportunities."

Of the many activities in the camp, Kenneth says he enjoyed Zesto sailing the most as it taught him independence. "I was alone in the boat and I was taught what to do when the boat capsizes," he says. He also sufficiently impressed actor-taekwondo champion Monsour del Rosario who gave a sport primer, for him to invite Kenneth for further lessons. For Rikki Mae, the Habagat LUBID games, Guess Kids archery, Zesto sailing and taekwondo were most enjoyable experiences.

Kenneth and Rikki Mae got citations in Orienteering and were given Our Changing Environment workbooks. Kenneth and buddy Miguel Tuazon won first place in the double kayak race.

Kenneth and Rikki Mae may have missed some home activities like playing with pet dog Deniro, but they say they would readily grab at a chance for another SNACK camp in the future, for the new experiences it offers.

As for their parents, Ricky and Jackie's fears were allayed, so they too look forward to more experiences for their kids, the opening of new horizons, the return to the virtues of nature and the outdoors.

Even as this is being written, Ricky is mulling over the idea of joining "Daddy's SNACK," the upcoming Father's Day Weekend Camp, June 9-10, that would offer a father and child bonding experiences, still within the environment of the great outdoors. Call 7210801.

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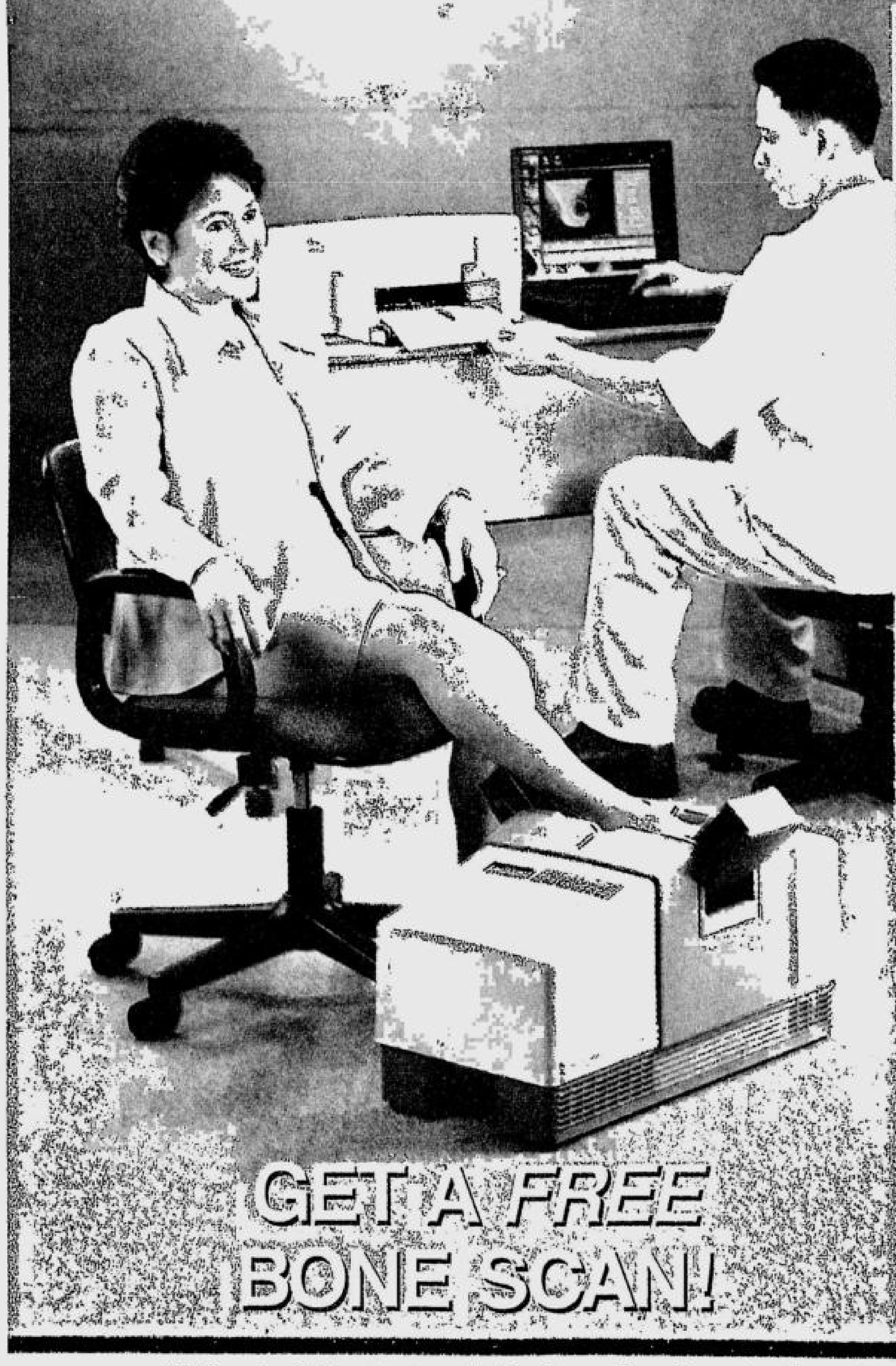

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APRIL 1-29 ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET CEBU
MAY 1-6 GAISANO COUNTRY MALL
MAY 8-13 GAISANO METRO AYALA
MAY 15-20 GAISANO METRO COLON
MAY 22-27 GAISANO METRO MANDAUE

LUZON
APRIL 27-29 SOUTH SUPERMARKET STA. ROSA LAGUNA
MAY 7-13 ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET IMUS
MAY 14-20 ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET LOS BAÑOS

DAVAO
APRIL 24-29 NCCC TAGUM
MAY 1-6 PARK N SHOP, VICTORIA PLAZA
MAY 8-13 CENTRO SUPERMART
MAY 15-20 DCWC-AGDAO
MAY 22-27 FELCRIS-QUIRINO

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OSTEPOROSIS is the world's most common bone disease. It's a silent killer that attacks from the inside. It may even cause a fracture that may result in death.

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This has been the battle cry of Carnation Calcium Plus and the very reason why Operation Bone Check was launched July of last year – to be able to provide free bone scan services to consumers in Luzon (primarily Metro Manila). To further fulfill its commitment to help Filipinos fight this crippling disease, more PIXI bone scanning machines have been deployed and more professional teams assembled to widen its coverage to the Visayas and Mindanao areas. So now, early detection through free bone scan services is available all over the country.

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ADVT.

How to become a good TV host

By Nestor U. Torre

I WAS working in the office early one morning when who should show up but a young acquaintance of mine who's a rising personality in the media world. He said he wanted to invite me to dinner so he could pick my brains (for free, of course) on my thoughts on TV hosting, because he'd received a number of offers to topbill his own TV show, but didn't know if he would be good at it.

Workload

Well, I told him, my workload was so heavy that dinner might happen three weeks later, so why didn't we just hunker down and talk about TV hosting right then and there? *Mabilis na, mura pa.* He agreed—with alacrity!

I'm paraphrasing what we talked about because, from time to time, I do get queries on the subject, so other people may stand to benefit from our discussion, the highlights of which I recall in this piece:

"What does it take to be a good TV host?," asked the young comer. "I'm getting these juicy offers and I want to accept a couple of them, but I'm scared because, at this point, I don't know if I can do a good job of it. What are the main things I should keep in mind?"

Speaking skills

Well, first of all, you've got to evaluate your speaking skills, or get others to evaluate them for you. Namely, do you stammer, have defects in diction or pronunciation?—that sort of thing.

It would also be helpful if you're a good speaker in English *and* Filipino. If you aren't, bone up on either language first *before* you get on the tube.

Next, ask yourself if you're sufficiently educated or glib to survive talking on TV—which is very different from talking in everyday life. The difference is this thing called "TV time," which means talking faster, more clearly—and absolutely no "dead air."

Eternity

In other words, on TV, you have to talk fast *and* still make a lot of sense—a very difficult feat to pull off. In real life, three seconds of silence is nothing; on TV, it's an eternity!

HOW/PCS

'Love Hurts' films on TCM channel

NO one ever said that love was easy. A woman leaves her son and husband, a 15-year marriage with three kids falls apart, a man gets married and his eyes start roving and another one picks up the lady at the perfume counter. Whatever happened to "happily ever after"? In May, check out "Love Hurts" films on TCM.

Tragic love story

In "Anna Karenina"(1935), the moody, sumptuous Greta Garbo vehicle faithfully tells Tolstoy's tragic love story set in 19th century Russia. Anna is a pampered wife and devoted mother leading a proper life until she meets dashing army officer Vronsky, played by Frederic March.

She falls deeply in love and asks her husband for a divorce, but he coldly tells her she'll never see their son again.

The two lovers run away together, but soon Vronsky is restless and they quarrel. Anna goes to the train station to see him off as he leaves on an army commission, but sees him with another woman.

Diane Keaton and Albert Finney star in "Shoot the Moon" (1982) about a modern day upper middle class dysfunctional family.

Finney is a successful writer who is married to Keaton, they have four young daughters. They finally split up after 15 years of marriage. She takes up with her tennis instructor and he also finds a lover.

Scandalous tale

"The Divorce" (1930) is a scandalous tale of a married woman, played by Norma Shearer, with loose morals out to bed every man in sight.

The Hollywood community at the time believed Shearer received leading roles because of her real life marriage to MOM's studio boss Irving Thalberg. She has, however, proven her critics wrong by giving an outstanding performance which won her first Oscar for Best Actress.

In "The Women" (1939), Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford and a great host of actresses kick up a storm about love, fidelity, and "fighting for your man." Shearer loses her husband to conniving Crawford and when the dust settles, she decides to take matters into her own hands.

AM/FM

Revisiting 50 years of music history through radio

By Rito P. Asilo

AFTER two minutes of randomly surfing through the FM band and listening to station IDs, we noted that at least five stations announced that each of them was number one—and that was just in two minutes!

Outlandish contests

Competition for patronage is fierce and stiff. No wonder radio stations sometimes come up with outlandish contests to catch a listener's fancy—the more unconventional the gimmick, the better.

Initially, it was K-Lite 103.5's music that caught us, and that may be what truly matters in the end. We caught Wency Cornejo's raspy version of Hotdog's "Ikaw Pa Rin" and listened long enough to discover that these people have great taste in their choice of songs.

As listener, you have an idea what to expect from them because their programs have concepts, but they don't flood you with predictable, over-used songs.

RIMES AND ANDREWS Hearing their songs bridged decades of pop memories and influences.

When they deviate from their "light" programming, like when DJ Don Henry plays a .38 Special rock song, he apologizes for the "noise" on a Sunday morning.

It was great to hear Lisa Stansfield's sophisticated vocals on "Time to Make You Mine", George Duke and Stanley Clarke's jazz classic, "Sweet Baby", or the pop princes of New Jack swing, Boyz II Men's stylish blend of old school harmony and hip-hop beat in "Thank You in Advance".

Sudsy

Even the sudsy LeAnn Rimes, the teenage cross-over country superstar, sounded great in "Please Remember", culled from the original soundtrack of "Coyote Ugly."

But the Diane Warren song sounds a lot like "How Do I Live?", the controversial hit Trisha Yearwood sang for the "Con Air" soundtrack, which LeAnn recorded first.

Another song which caught our attention was the radio-friendly "Bakit 'Di Mo Pansin?", a cut from the new album of Pido with Take One.

Aside from the necessary commercial gaps, part of K-Lite's "friendly reminders" includes the schedules and formats of their other programs. For example: Sundays from 9 AM to 12 noon features repertoire from the '80s to the present; 12 to 3 PM showcases classics from the 50's to the 70's.

Jessica Zafra's "Twisted" goes on air at 3 PM, and Casey Kasem's Top 20 show starts at 9 PM. They have "Roadwatch" advisories from 6 to 9 AM and from 4 to 7 p.m.

Another interesting program is "Talk Back" (weekdays, 7 to 7:30 p.m.). which features different topics daily, like "Grossest Personal Habits" as shared by its listeners.

But what really amused us was when they announced their invitation for ladies to join "K-Lite's Sexiest Thong Festival"! Yes, you heard it right, a "thong" festival where women are judged according to how well they look in that skimpy thong thing! It will be interesting to hear what feminists have to say about this!

It was such a gas to hear the DJ say, "We'd like to invite all the ladies out there—the real ladies, that is." Probably scared they'd get more male impersonators in thongs than their intended female participants!

We were curious how this contest actually turned out, and apparently we were not alone because some guys actually won free tickets to watch the contest while we were tuned in.

Possibilities

It just makes you wonder what other stations will do to top each other, or what K-Lite will come up next. Best in Clogs as Headgear? Most Artistic Costume using Henna Tattoo as Medium? Most Impressive in a Condom? The possibilities are endless.

If FM radio has wacky surprises, the AM band has pleasant ones. We stopped changing channels when we heard Julie Andrews' timeless, lilting vocals in "The Lonely Goatherd", one of the immortal songs from 1965's "The Sound of Music" soundtrack.

We were surprised that a radio program would play this, a Broadway song, on the AM band. The song was first performed on Broadway in 1959, and in London in 1961. That makes it 42 years old!

The program, "774 with Love" (Sundays, 8 AM-1 PM, 774 khz), hosted by Larry Damian, has been a DWWW staple since the station started operating four years ago. So is Larry, the friendly DJ with a newscaster's voice, who also hosts the station's "Himig Pag-ibig" from Tuesday to Saturday, midnight to 5 a.m. Time stands still on these shows.

We were glad we didn't hear the novelty songs that we expected, like "Aray", "Sisirin", "Nilunok Kong Lahat" or any of Mystica's anthems for lovelorn martyrs. What we heard were timeless classics that our grannies and gramps would have hummed along with: Simon and Garfunkel's "Homeward Bound"; Elvis Presley's "Kiss Me Quick"; Herman Hermit's "I Understand"; the New Vaudeville Band's "Winchester Cathedral"; and the Foundation's "Build Me Up Buttercup"; the Cascades' "Punch and Judy Show"; Jerry and the Pacemakers' "Jambalaya"; the Beatles' "Love Me Do"; Cliff Richards' "Congratulations"; Peter and Gordon's "A World Without Love"; the Dave Clark Five's "Because" and the videoke staple, "It's Not Unusual" by Tom Jones.

Granada elevated to stardom in 'Halik ng Sirena'

By Remy Umerez

SOME graduates of the wholesome show "That's Entertainment" have finally had a taste of stardom by going bold on the screen. A perfect example is Ara Mina, who decided to shift to bold because her movie career was going nowhere.

Former child star Isabel Granada, also a product of "That's Entertainment," took her sweet time deciding whether to go bold or not.

Boldest move

Her boldest move was when she agreed to play a young prostitute in "Ligaya Ang Itawag Mo Sa Akin." But male viewers were disappointed because no breast exposure occurred even when she was being raped by a customer.

The controversial movie caught the interest of some producers, who deluged Isabel with movie offers—provided she bare more. Isabel politely turned them down because she wasn't ready to really go bold. "*Talagang hindi ko kaya, lalo na nga't* frontal nudity *pa ang gusto nilang ipagawa sa akin*," she explains.

Due to lack of movie assignments, Isabel became a recording star.

Then came the recent announcement that Regal Films was launching Isabel Granada to major stardom via the fantasy-romance picture "Halik ng Sirena."

Mermaid

As the title suggests, Isabel plays a mermaid who falls in love with a mortal. Evidently, all that it takes for Isabel to go daring is a mermaid role. She is romanced in the movie by Carlos Morales, the newest screen hunk

Says Joey Gosengfiao, supervising producer of "Halik ng Sirena:" "A mermaid role is the surest way to achieve stardom. It worked with Edna Luna, who was the original "Dyesebel." One of Regal's biggest moneymakers is a remake of "Dyesebel," which made Alice Dixson a big star. We thought Isabel fit the role, although 'Halik' has no bearing on the plot of 'Dyesebel.'"

"The director is Joven Tan and his approach is very contemporary, although faithful to the mythical figure of the *sirena* in everyone's mind. The depiction of the mermaid character is more realistic, and the movie follows in the footsteps of 'Splash,' which starred Darryl Hannah and Tom Hanks," says Joey.

GRANADA. Plays a mermaid who falls in love with a mortal.

New phase

Isabel is undergoing a new world of experiences with the release of the movie which was shot in the waters off Anilao in Batangas. It marks a new phase in her movie career.

The reworking of a classic genre might just spell the kiss of success for Isabel Granada, after paying her dues through her years as a child and teen star.

How to become . . .

(From page C4)

So, on TV, the rule is: don't stop to think, just keep talking away, and hope and pray that your education is good enough to keep you from making a fool of yourself.

This "don't stop to think" rule is one of the most difficult things for "intelligent" new TV hosting talents to accept and practice. It's like bungee jumping, not everybody can do it because it's so scary.

Corollary

But the people who do jump rely on the fact that they're tied to a long rope that will keep them from hitting their heads on the ground. That rope is the corollary of the education or street savvy you must have if you are to survive TV talk shows' "don't stop to think" rule.

Actually, TV hosts still *do* find time to think, but they don't do it when it's time for them to talk. They think and formulate their next question *as the guest is talking*. The second the guest stops, the host is ready with his next question.

Response

So, the good TV host must develop a "multi-functional" brain—part of it is listening to the guest; a second part is formulating possibilities for a response or follow-up question; a third part is evaluating how the interview as a whole is going so far; a fourth is ticking off how many more "talking points" need to be covered before the time allotted to the interview runs out, and a fifth part is assimilating the instructions that come from the director and the floor director-!

No wonder very few people turn out to be good TV hosts! *(To be concluded.)*

"I hope my Lola forgives me, but this *Adobo* recipe is so much better!"

Mrs. Nina Yap
Pre-school Teacher, Mother

" I've always used my Lola's *Adobo* recipe which is very good. But then, I stumbled upon a kitchen gold mine – *Adobo* with **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!** *Ang sarap!* Just a tablespoon and you have the flavor and zest that make your *Adobo* **the best tasting -- ever!** And now, my family will never have *Adobo* in any other way.

Come to think of it, it's still my Lola's recipe – with a delightful twist: **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.** I'm sure she'll be so proud of me!"

Chicken Pork Adobo *a la Lea and Perrins*

Ingredients:

1/2 kilo pork liempo, cut into large cubes
1/2 kilo fresh chicken, cut up in pieces
2 cloves macerated garlic
1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
2-3 pieces bay leaves
1/2 cup native vinegar
1 cup soup stock or water
2 tbsps. soy sauce
1 tbsp. ***Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce***

Procedure:

Marinate chicken and pork in a mixture of soy sauce, garlic, peppercorns, bay leaves, vinegar and Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Do not stir and let stand for 10 minutes.

Put the whole marinated mixture in a saucepan over medium heat and cook without stirring. Let it boil first then stir. Simmer until chicken is done and some sauce had evaporated.

Take out the chicken and continue simmering. Add soup stock until pork is tender to the touch and sauce is beginning to thicken.

Put back the chicken and finish cooking over low heat until pork begins to shed some fat and the chicken becomes brown.

Remove from fire, take out the bay leaves and serve hot.

Makes 4-5 servings

FREE APRON! Try our recipe and tell us what you think. Write your comments on a **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce** wrapper and send to GETZ BROS., 5F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. FREE special edition apron for the first 500 respondents!

Marinates Meat Superbly

TWO FOR THE SHOW

No competition between brothers Carlo and Leandro Muñoz

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky Gallardo

CARLO Muñoz is grateful that his "Billy" character in the series of PLDT commercials and "Maalaala Mo Kaya" has helped him survive in show business. He admits that he almost quit a year ago.

"I was psyching myself up to quit. I was convinced that there might be better work for me elsewhere. But then I was booked to do a 'Maalaala Mo Kaya' episode with director Laurice Guillen.

"The role required a lot of emotional scenes and after a courtroom scene, Nini Matilac, the executive producer, told me that I would be playing Walter Navarro in an episode. The 'Billy' character helped me get a role in the soap "Pangako Sa 'Yo."

Carlo has managed to make "Billy" an amusing and sympathetic mama's boy. Is he one in real life? "I'm a career-oriented person. Yes, I'm a mama's boy but in a different way: I'm not pampered. My mom can count on me and there are situations when I'm more involved than her. I'm a responsible mama's boy," Carlo grins.

Being in "Pangako sa Iyo" has pushed Carlo to be aware of political events because the soap requires him to have a basic knowledge of political issues. Aside from reading newspapers, the soap taught him the value of discipline and hard work.

After his movie "Narinig Mo Na Ba ang L8est" Carlo shoots "Love Text" and "The Wedding Photographer" with Rico Yan and Claudine Barretto. It appears that he's busier than his older brother, Leandro but he insists that they don't compete against each other.

"There's no rivalry between us. We're friends and brothers. I'm more mysterious than Leandro but once you get to know me, you'll see that I'm *kalog* and simple."

He enjoys texting, playing basketball and riding his motorcycle in his free time. He hangs out with Bernard Palanca and Jericho Rosales.

Silk & Time & a Half bands groove in Subic

The Moondance, Crossover Live Beach Party last April 21 at the Waterfront Road in Subic could have been a blast if Silk had prepared exciting songs. Silk opened their act with "You on My Mind," and "Best Days" and got a lukewarm response.

Even if they sang upbeat numbers like "Laruso," "Hey," "Shy Guy," "Horny," and "Catch You," they failed to entice the crowd to dance. They couldn't sustain the crowd's interest and enthusiasm.

Old crowd favorites, "September," "Give It Up," "I Will Survive," and "Head Over Heels" didn't get the usual rowdy response. Sure Colin, Jennifer and Elaine looked good in their bikini tops and figure-hugging pants, but they lacked energy, pep and presence to drive the crowd wild.

The "bring me" game and constant flow of alcohol perked up the crowd and revived its interest in the Time & A Half band. They opened with a mellow song "Laughter in the Rain," but Tammy da Silva and Allan Cantos had powerful, solid voices so the slow song created an impact.

Cover songs like "The Hurt," "Life," and "A Strong, Strong Man" drew more people to walk in the sand. They continued to establish a good rapport with the crowd by singing two requests ("Cruising" and "Smooth").

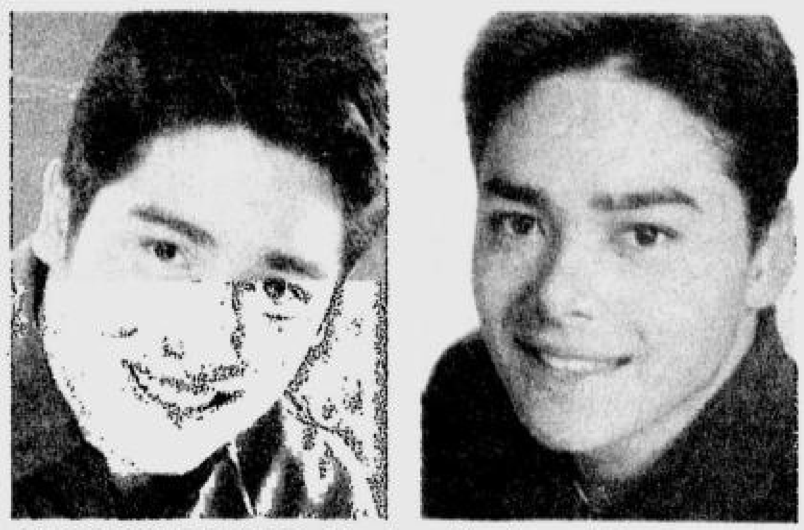
When the crowd had warmed up to them, Tammy and Allan increased the momentum with upbeat songs like "Ain't Got Nobody," "Celebration," "Lady Marmalade," "Sex Bomb" and "Let's Groove Tonight."

The British Council beefs up its support for the arts

We had lunch with the key people in The British Council recently and they bared their line-up of activities.

Starting this weekend, up to May 19, the Council is mounting the travelling exhibit "Sound Design" at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall. This exhibit looks at the many facets of graphic design and its strong involvement in the music industry, specifically how our singers and recording artists establish the image they want to project through specially-designed marketing promotion collaterals.

In musical theater, a small but gut-wrenching one-act play that caused a lot of stir at the 2000 Edinburgh International Festival will have its Asian gala premiere soon in Manila. The small cast has been selected after rigid auditions and the two lead male roles have been won by Nonie Buencamino and Butch Montejo.


CARLO AND LEANDRO. Friends and brothers at the same time.

The lone female role is now being contested by two aspirants, both neophytes, Melissa Alfonso and Banaue Miclat.

Another interesting project in the offing is "Forward Motion," a program of dance films spanning almost a century and charting the British dance evolution throughout the period. A resource person from England will be flown in to provide the contextual framework for the films.

Other projects lined up are "Inside Out" (a fashion exhibition), the annual British Film Festival, a workshop on the latest in sound engineering and a special dance show which will showcase both the ambulant and non-ambulant dancers of the CandoCo Dance Company of England who will perform contemporary dance theatre pieces.

Side A and Bituin sing for a spiritual cause

On May 3, it's the turn of the Side A Band and Bituin Escalante to share their talents to raise funds for the We Exalt You Jesus! Foundation, a group which aims to reach out to the marginalized sectors of society through evangelization and charitable projects.

They will be joined by the fast-rising vocal group Quarter to Five at the Crossroads Christian Center in a musical concert billed as "In Tune...Forever!"

Crossroads is located at #77 Mother Ignacia corner Scout Reyes in Quezon City. Call Unison Productions at 890-0831.

ABS-CBN offers creative workshops

By Edmund L. Sicam

JUST when you thought that ABS-CBN couldn't get any bigger than it already was, it makes for itself yet another tagline: being the first and only broadcasting company with an educational arm called CCAI (Center for Communication Arts Inc.). For the month of April, the Center offers 16 classes in acting, dancing, singing, TV production and newscasting. There will be a second wave of workshops in May, with additional courses in commercial production, news production, speech and personality development.

Discipline

According to CCAI manager Beverly Vergel (former actress turned instructor), the center was organized to bridge the gap between what you learn in school and what actually goes on in the industry. The president of CCAI, Johnny Manahan, wanted to share knowledge about the reality and the discipline of the industry.

The courses are "20 to 40% theory or lecture and 60 to 80 % practice. They teach you things like, acting isn't just *pa*-cute. Acting for TV has no continuity. Sometimes you have to take a very emotional shot six times, and each time has to have exactly the same intensity.

"In the Broadcasting courses, students learn the reality and discipline of the industry. You see, some of these courses are being offered in schools, but they don't teach you about budget, about the things you can and can't do in the industry today."

There's no audition. The only requirements are two ID pictures, an accomplished CCAI registration form, and a down payment of at least 50% of the enrollment fee (which ranges from P 5,000 to P 6,000, depending on the course).

"In the performing arts, there are no aptitude tests. *Basta magaling ka* and you have the passion for it, you will excel," says Vergel. Don't the students need to know the basics, at the very least? "We teach the basics. It's for people who want to try these things, at least once. There is just an age limit for some production courses. The youngest we'll take is 18 years old. At least second year college *na*.

"Mostly young people enroll in the performing arts classes, but they also have a lot of people who are "30 plus — *mga* bank managers, *ganoon*, who are thinking of a career change."

Vergel spoke of a 65 year old in the acting class who said she knows she'll never be a '*sikat na artista*', but "*noong bata pa siya, nandoon na sa puso niya na gusto niyang maging artista. Kaya lang, wala siyang* opportunity because she was raising her brothers and sisters."

The instructors are chosen well. They must have experience in the field to teach. They may not be degree-holders, but they're people who have been in the business for as long as 10 years. They're people who can teach you what can't be found in books or libraries

Among the teachers are Johnny Manahan (directing), Laurice Guillen (acting), Jaime del Prado (dancing), Ricky Lee (scriptwriting), and Kata Inocencio (news casting).

Vergel may be the manager of CCAI but she's no stranger to acting, and is also an instructor. "I liked acting, but I found that my passion is not for acting, but teaching. I get happy and fulfilled when I see my trainees succeed, I get a sense of purpose," she says.

There are no grades or surprise quizzes or textbooks like a regular school. It's all in the spirit of fun. The 'final exam' is a big show that will be held at ABS' Studio One, using all the hi-tech gadgets and equipment, with professional cameramen and directors. "It will be like watching 'ASAP!'" Vergel enthuses.

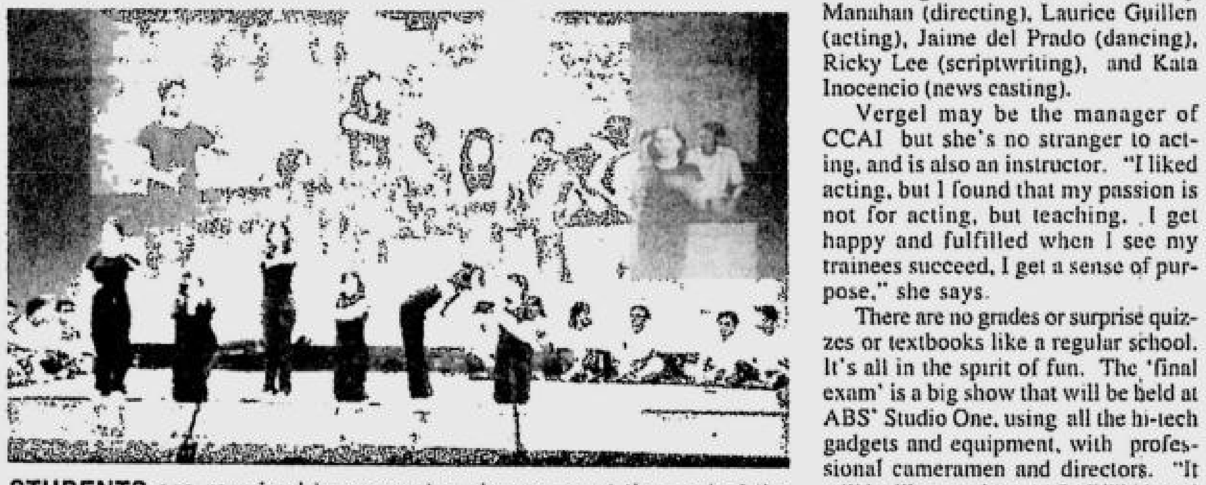
Batch trainees

As far as ABS-CBN talents are concerned, who are required to take the courses at CCAI? Says Vergel, "It depends on what management says. One example is, if you are a batch trainee for Star Circle, you are required to attend 18 modules of training divided into three categories: 1. Performing arts (singing, dancing, acting), 2. Personality development (poise, projection, manners and etiquette, attitudinal training and intellectual stimulation) and 3. Physical development (which includes body sculpting). Star Movies require workshops for the actors in their movies as well."

Have there been outside people who have taken the workshop and have become actors as well? "*Maraming nakaka*-supporting roles. Those who excel are always recommended to the Talent Center. Cable, ABS-CBN International and Star Cinema ask for recommendations for specific roles as well, and if we see people that they need in these workshops, we recommend them."

Surprisingly enough, there are also a lot of students in the courses that teach you what to do behind the camera. "Some people who take these courses are from the States. These courses are too expensive there so they take it here." Call 415-3828.

BROADCASTING courses expose students to the reality and discipline of the industry.


STUDENTS are required to present a showcase at the end of the course.

How rampant video piracy. .

(From page C7)

says.

Despite these three major problems, Sol reveals that the VRB exceeded its target. For the year 2000, it was able to seize replicating equipment in Pasig City; the Clark Economic Zone in Angeles, Pampanga; the Laguna Industrial Park in Biñan, Laguna and in Baler, Quezon.

VRB has also adopted a vigorous, aggressive but strategic enforcement plan. Last year, they raided mostly urban centers where there has been a proliferation of non-traditional pirates or those who are very mobile, with no fixed location. But for the first time, the VRB also operated against video pirates in the Barter Trade Center in Quiapo where 60 search warrants were served resulting in the seizure of 42,000 pirated VCDs.

They also conducted inspection operations at places like Virra Mall in Greenhills; Harrison Plaza in Manila, the Airport City Mall in Parañaque, and in Cebu City, Pangasinan and Baguio City.

The VRB does not stop at enforcement. For search and seizure operations, the corresponding criminal case is prepared and endorsed for prosecution. Last year, there were 174 such cases and 1,824 administrative complaints were processed.

Pending bill

Is there hope for the VRB to rise above its present problems? Sol enthuses, "Yes, with the approval of a pending bill in Congress – House Bill 11855, which will reorganize the VRB into another body, which is the Entertainment Media Anti-Piracy Board.

"The bill's salient features include the non-importation of replicating machines without clearance from the board. The penalties are now enough of a deterrent, and we will have extension offices in the provinces, especially in Cebu and Davao."

The bill, principally authored by Reps. Danilo Suarez and Imee Marcos, was already passed on third reading last December. Sadly, however, it was overtaken by political events.

But the possibility of its becoming a law is high. "The international community is looking at us. If we don't do anything about piracy we may be put under Special 301 Priority Watch List. This means, *baka magkaroon tayo ng* trade sanctions, such as lowering of trade quotas and higher tariff at *walang magi-invest dito*," Sol warns.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM APRIL 28 - MAY 4

CH	2	4	5	7	9	21	23	29	E! 31
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11.00 "F" 12:00 The Weekend News	6.00 Cartoon Hour 7 00 On-Line Bingo 8 00 SOF 9.00 Lotto Draw 9 15 Road to Sydney 10 15 Fashion Watch 10 45 Olympic Primer 11 15 National Network News 12 00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6 00 Vampires 6 30 Sailormoon Super S 7 00 Tropang Trumpo 8 00 Ispup 9.00 Saturday Night Specials *2001 Grammy Awards Part 2* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5 30 Brigada Siete 7 00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8.00 Kakabakaba 9.30 GMA's BEST *Free Willy 2* 11 00 Master Showman Presents 12 30 GMA Network News 1.00 The 700 Club	6 00 JaBayan 7:00 Invisible Man 8.00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Carousel Beauty Pageant* 11 00 Business Class 14:30 Late Night Movie	5 30 H2K 7 00 Viva Premiere Night 9.00 Kagat sa Dilim 10 00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11.00 Night Lines	6 00 Starship Troopers [illegible] Journey of Allen Strange Two of a Kind [illegible] Seventh Heaven 8.30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 *The Last Action Hero* 12.00 MTV	3 00 Q Show Case 7.00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10 00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	*(No schedule submitted as of presstime)* 6:00 CBS Evening News 6 30 E! News Daily 7.00 Celebrity Profile 8.00 E! Special 10 00 Wild On 11.00 David Letterman 12 00 E! Coming Attractions
[illegible]	5.30 Knowledge Power 6.00 Sharon 7.00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Bora ang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11 00 The Weekend News 11:30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6 00 Uncut 6.30 Ugat 7.00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10.30 Business & Leisure 11 00 Sultada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6 00 Sinbad the Sailor 6 30 Guyferd 7 00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Eezy Dancing 10.00 Sunday Night Movies *Double Jeopardy* 12:00 Sentinel	5 30 Partners Mel and Jay 7.00 Bitoy's World 7 30 GMA Telesine 9 30 Sunday Night Box Office *Free Willy 3* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12 30 The 700 Club	5 30 Hollywood Squares 6.00 Compañero y Compañera 7 00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8.30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9 00 Sunday's Big Event *Miss USA* 11 00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA 9.00 Sinemaks 11.00 In His Steps 11.30 PBA Moments	6 00 Born Free 7:00 Batman Beyond 7 30 Futurama 8 00 The Nanny 8 30 Spin City 9 00 Will & Grace 9.30 Jack & Jill 10 30 Digital Tour	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7.00 Sunday Mini-Series 8.00 Oh Tokyo 9.00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6.00 Talk Soup 6 30 CBS Evening Newsd 7.00 60 Minutes 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 11.00 Celebrity Profile 12.00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9.00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Correspondents 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5 30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10.15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6 00 F 6.30 Mahha Go Go Go 7.00 Que Horror 8 00 The Big Night *Bogus* 10:00 The Big News 10.30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11.00 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6.30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7.00 Dragonball Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Maglulupa Man A.* 9:30 Kiss Muna 10 30 Front Page 11 00 I-Witness 12.00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7 30 Maria del Cielo 8 00 Michael Hayes 9.00 The X-Files 10.00 Primetime Balita 10 30 Honasan Reports	7 00 Blow By Blow 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10 30 Super Bouts 11.00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp.	6 00 Lassie 7.00 I Dream of Jeannie 7 30 Making the Band 8.00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10 00 News Central 10 30 Points of View 11 30 Nightman 12 00 MTV	4.30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 E! Mysteries & Scandals 8.30 Talk Soup 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story 10.00 Wild On 11:00 David Letterman
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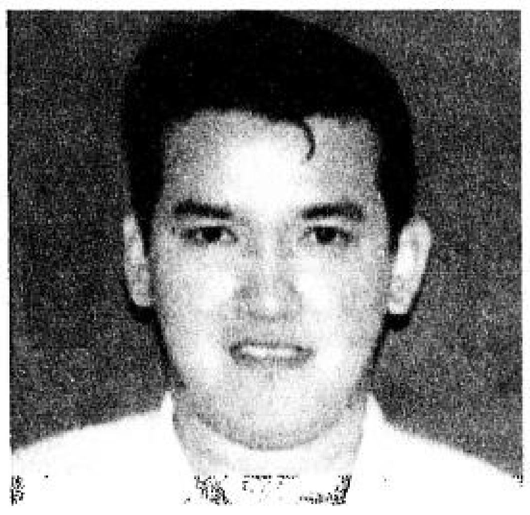
How rampant video piracy can be stopped



SOL. Improved technology makes VCDs easier to copy.

By Andy Bais

PIRATES have always been known to operate on the high seas. Well, one need not look that far anymore. Present-day pirates—the kind that sells fake video and audio compact discs—are now practically everywhere, from high–end malls to lowly *tiangges.*

In the Quiapo area, for instance, pirated VCDs and CDs are sold openly along Recto ave. and the Raon area. Ironically, somewhere in Arlegui, just a few minutes away from where our president officially resides, more than 30 stalls can be found, each selling thousands upon thousands of bogus items.

Those stalls are mostly operated by Muslim traders and VCDs can be had at the low price of P40 each and CDs at P30 apiece and can even go lower if one buys them in bulk!

The local movie industry has been languishing of late, and one need not be an expert to know why. The proliferation of pirated VCDs in the market is one of the major reasons for this.

The Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) is the government arm mandated to address the continuous and widespread proliferation of fake VCDs. As such, the VRB has been seen to be helpless in its fight against video piracy. Why is this so? Has it been sleeping on the job?

Joseph Sol, VRB Special Assistant and spokesperson explains that ,despite the Board's concerted efforts to address the problem, video piracy continues to exist because of the emergence of new and improved technology which, in turn, makes VCDs easier to produce, more accessible and cheaper.

Real time

"Before the advent of VCDs, copying of a movie could only be completed in real time—if the movie runs for two hours, copying time would also take two hours. Now, VCD reproduction, whether legal or otherwise, takes only four seconds with the use of replicating equipment, which can produce 20,000 to 25,000 copies in one day!

"This is the reason why, after a seizure of thousands of pirated VCDs in one area, the same area can be filled with the same number of VCDs in only a few hours!

"With this kind of technology, it is necessary for us to run after the sources of these illegal VCDs and not just the retailers or distributors. And this is where the problem worsens. The law creating the VRB is already antiquated. *Hindi na siya angkop sa* technology.

"Why? Because, according to the law, *ang bawal ay ang mga* videogram material. There is no law prohibiting the importation of replicating equipment. *Kapag in*–import *yan, magbabayad ka lang sa* customs, released *na yan,*" Sol sighs.

Aside from what Sol describes as VRB's "technology overtaking the law" problem, they also have to contend with the board's lack of manpower.

"We only have 18 agents covering the entire Philippines and we don't have any regional or provincial offices. This is why the board's Intelligence and Inspection Division, which is our enforcement arm, has had to resort to a Memorandum of Agreement with the NBI and PNP-CIDG, wherein they ask for police reinforcement during inspection operations because the lives of our agents are at risk.

"In one operation alone, for example, we need to have 50 personnel because the vendors fight back *kung nakikita nilang kaunti lang kami,*" he reveals.

Nothing in return

Sol also laments the fact that the Board has no enforcement fund. "*Siyempre, kapag kukuha kami* ng police we have to feed them, *maski papano. Mabuti na lang,* some of them join us even if they get nothing in return," he

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(Story on page D2)

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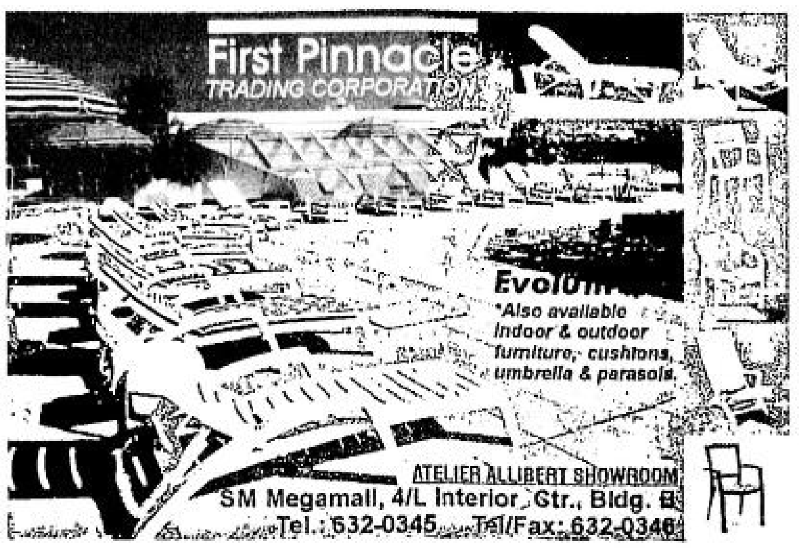

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Musical love-in for Leo Valdez

Y NESTOR U. TORRE

LAST Saturday, Behn Cervantes, Lollie Mara, my mother and I were invited to Leo Valdez's fare-ell show at the Captain's Bar of the andarin Hotel, and we accepted the vitation with delight.

Snafus

However, some snafus due to poor oordination threatened to sour the exerience for us. Still, we stayed on, determined to enjoy the evening, come what may!

Well, enjoy it, we did—much of the me, anyway. The musical treats started ith a pre-show set by the 747 Band, hich featured various members of the ruz clan, including a sexy female solost with a singing voice as low as her eavage!

When Leo finally appeared onstage, he was in fine musical form as he regaled. his audience with a series of show tunes that required him to hit high notes, one after another.

The crowd greeted each difficult musical peal with applause and appreciative yelps, as local audiences are wont to do (most everyone in these parts, goes ga-ga over belters, that's for sure).

Vocal prowess

After a while, however, all those high notes began to feel like an embarrassment of musical riches. We were dutifully impressed with Leo's vocal prowess, but we longed for some variety, contrast, quiet passages, hushed and deeply-felt numbers—anything to give Leo's vocal chords and our eardrums a rest from all these high-velocity musical salvos.

Thankfully, those contrasting interludes did come, but not until the show's second half. We were grateful, though, that Leo included a lot of Filipino songs in his repertoire, despite his having made it as an international musical-theater star. There really *is* no place like home, and that includes the field of music.

Acute

Leo's love for Filipino songs was rendered particularly acute that night because, in a few days' time, he's slated to resume playing The Engineer in "Miss Saigon" abroad, first in Asia (Hong Kong, Singapore) and then in England, where he will topbill the hit musical's performance tour.

Leo will be away for a couple of years this time, so he'll need all the warm, musical thoughts of home that he can take along with him!

Back to his show at Captain's Bar: Midway through the evening, Leo finally took a breather and introduced his special guest, Ima Castro, one of the Kims in "Miss Saigon." Ima's singing voice has a clear, bell-like sound which she used to advantage to win her listeners' hearts.

High notes

Unfortunately, she also chose a "*pang*-impress" selection of "heavy" songs with a lot of impossibly high notes, so our eardrums were in for battering again!

We really do wish our singers were confident enough *not* to keep playing to local audiences' preference for "belting" performances. Musical artistry requires variety, sensitivity and contrast, and singers shouldn't feel required to "kill" themselves vocally to keep their listeners slap-happy.

This is the same observation we shared with Dulce years ago, after one of her shows, and to her credit, the acclaimed belter has since varied her repertoire, and she's as popular as ever. So, it can be done—it *should* be done—and the likes of Ima can do it, too.

Climax

When Leo came back after Ima's spot numbers, he revved up to his show's climax by performing some of the musical-theater songs associated with him in the course of his career.

This gave his show an upward trajectory of associations and shared recollections of performances past that effectively gave the concert an emotionally-satisfying climax.

That was when the audience responded with its strongest ovation yet. Earlier, we felt something was missing because Leo tended to focus on musical styling and vocal prowess rather than emotion and interpretation, but the show's finale helped make up for that.

VALDEZ. Loves Filipino songs.

Sharon Cuneta has a new album of old songs

Y MONICA S. GUTIERREZ

SHARON Cuneta was fashionably late at the launching of her new album last April 19 at the Country Waffles Restaurant in Greenhills. Members of the press were surprised because she is usually on time for these things. However, we were later informed that she had just finished two tapings the night before. To add to that, she wasn't feeling too well, having been on the campaign trail for many days now.

Radiant smile

When Sharon came in, she was in a bright aqua-colored blouse and black pants. She was lightly made up but she had a radiant smile. She broke into tears s she entered the venue. Later, she explained that it was mainly because she was surprised to see Boss Vic there. "*Napaka*-touching *sa akin na nandito siya, iyung* presence *niya, importante sa akin. Nagulat ako, di ko inaasahan.*"

She has been extremely busy, what with the senatorial campaign of her husband, Atty. Kiko Pangilinan, and with election day drawing near. "*Hiwalay na ami* (in campaigning). We have 22 days eft and we have to cover as many areas s possible. Yesterday, I arrived from acloban, 'cause the other day I was in rmoc. That's how our day is, it's always *puno*. This week, I was in Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon."

There was a short, informal program, with Sharon singing several cuts from the album. In between her songs, she would share some stories. It was all very cozy and comfortable, no spiels or scripts, just Sharon talking to some (about a hundred?) friends.

Her new album is "Nothing I Want More". In it, she sings old songs from the '80s, songs that she says she grew up with and are therefore memorable to her. "*Iyung* 'Maybe', Sharon-Gabby *panahon pa iyan.* 'The Promise' – wedding song *namin ni* Francis." She chose these songs herself from a list of so many songs from the '80s.

"*Di namin ma*-record *lahat.* If I had a choice, *siguro mas maraming* songs, double album, *pero* it would take forever." Basically, these are songs that have meant something to her in the past. "I think when you hear a certain song, you are transported to a different time and place, you go back to a memory."

The packaging of the album is also quite novel, and very refreshing. At first glance, it looked like a very expensive and well-made desk calendar. When we opened it, we were surprised to find the CD inside. The pictures make use of subdued shades of yellow, orange, violet and green, giving the cover a very cool look. Images of Sharon are laid out across the pages, among hints of flowers, leaves and butterflies, giving her a "*diwata*" look. It is all beautifully executed by Joseph de Vera, one of the in-house artists of VIVA.

Sharon shared that they held a contest in VIVA for the best design concept for this album. Among 20 entries, Joseph de Vera's was the one chosen by the Megastar.

CUNETA. A compilation of songs she grew up with.

Happier songs

She shares, "A lot of things happened during the course of recording for this album. *Buti na lang* the happier songs I did early on. My father died, and then I recorded the sad songs. Later on, after I had given birth already, we recorded the rest of the happy songs and I was glad because I couldn't do the sad ones that well anymore, because I already had Frankie."

She is also proud to have Eugene Villaluz on board as album producer. "He has become my teacher, my friend, I really learned a lot from him. He really, really knows what he's doing. Eugene Villaluz is 50% of this whole album," she gushes The carrier single of the album, also titled "Nothing I Want More," was the Grand Prize winner of the Metro Manila Popular Music Festival in 1982. It also topped the International Seoul Song Festival that same year. The song was originally sung by Louie Reyes and Eugene Villaluz and Sharon is very proud to be the first one to re-record this song.

To add to her excitement, Louie Reyes was also in town at the time they were recording and the two original singers agreed to do back-up vocals for Sharon. But Sharon does not want to call it such. "To say just back-up vocals seems so.....unacceptable to me. It's really an honor!" Sharon gushes. "I hope I did justice to your song. *Wala akong sinabi kay* Louie Reyes!" she tells Eugene Villaluz.

She likes this song especially because it articulates her exact sentiments at this point in her life. "There's really nothing more I want, except maybe a sexy body, a faster metabolism!" she jokes. "I've had a great career for 22 years, I've made good friends in the business, I've grown up here, this is where I was first loved by everybody."

Now she realizes why she had to undergo hardships in the past. She used to always ask herself, "*Bakit ganoon....ba't ako naghiwalay....eto pala ang mga kasagutan.* I'm enjoying all the answers now."

She smiles as she declares that she and Kiko Pangilinan will be celebrating five years of a great marriage today. She is proud of her eldest, KC, and the much-celebrated baby, Frankie, who is now four months old, yet wears clothes big enough for a one-year old.

Encore

"The Promise" is another song special to her heart. She narrated how at the time when Kiko was just starting to court her, she sang this song for an encore during one of her concerts. She has always liked this song, ever since she was 13. She continues that when Kiko heard her sing it, "He said, 'Oh My God! If I was given just one song to sing, this would probably be the song I'd pick. This is the only song I can play on the piano.' So *sabi niya*, fate *daw iyon.*" Sharon says, visibly thrilled, like a giddy schoolgirl.

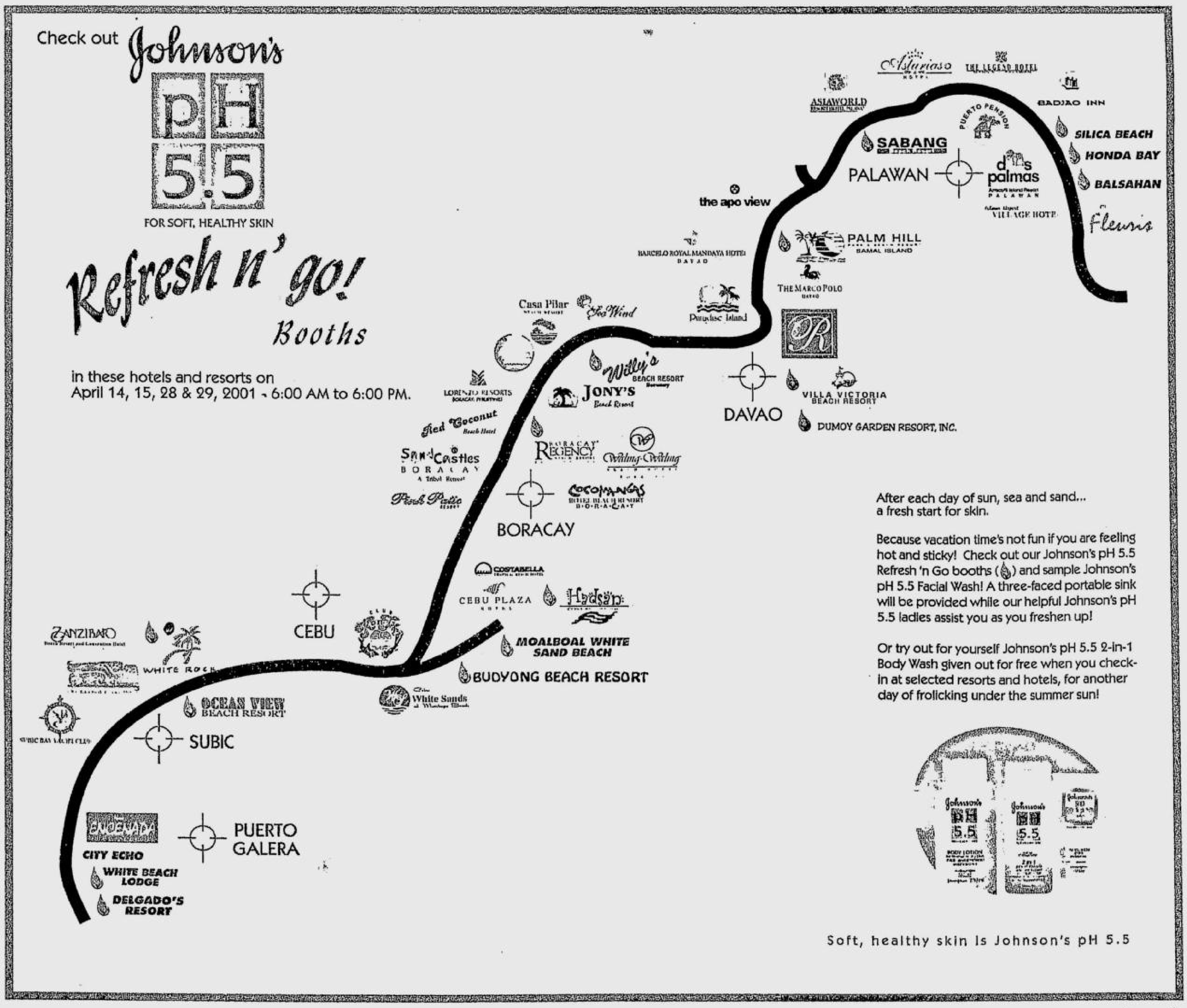
Members of the press ask her how it is being on the campaign trail. She says it is very tiring, but she enjoys it very much. "I get to see all these places. *Iyung mga* fans *ko na hindi nagkakaroon ng pagkakataon* to see me in person, all of a sudden, *may* chance *na sila.*"

Sharon shared insights that she has gained from being on the road. "At the beginning, I was only doing it because it was my husband's dream to do something good. *Sabi ko kasi*, it's my duty as his wife. But after a while, I realized, I was doing it out of a drive that was coming from a totally different place." Her eyes were opened to the plight of Mindanao. People in Leyte tell her of their woes. "*Dati*, I was living in the city, only thinking of my family, myself, my work." Now because of the campaign, she realizes, "We really have a chance to do something and *kung manalo si Kiko, parang* that chance will be solidified."

Frustration

Sharon also shares her frustration and annoyance with politicians who take advantage of her presence. She tells us of local politicians who would stand beside her in a rally and raise her hand all of a sudden. Someone conveniently takes a picture of them, and makes it look like she is endorsing them. "*Di mo kilala kung magnanakaw ito, nakakatakot!*" she laments.

She tells of how she would go to one place and she would be informed that only certain people would be there with her. "*Tapos biglang may ilang local politicians na dumadating, makikipagpicture sa iyo, nasa dyaryo na, kalendaryo na, di ka naman kilala, sumama lang sa* motorcade *mo. Nakakagulat!*" Sharon complains. *(To be concluded)*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‘Monsignor Renard’ unreels on the Hallmark channel

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE NEW dramatic mini-series “Monsignor Renard,” will air in four parts on the Hallmark channel, beginning April 29 at 9:30 p.m. It tells the story of a French Catholic priest returning to his birthplace, St. Josse-des-Bois, after a 20-year absence, as German troops prepare to occupy the town.

Renard finds on his return in May 1940 that his community is in turmoil, trying to survive under enemy rule and the unenlightened leadership of an ineffectual mayor.

The drama shows how Renard’s beliefs are tested to the breaking point as he’s forced to reconcile his faith with the harsh realities of living under German domination.

The premiere episode introduces the mini-series’ main characters and sets up the conflict between Renard and a Gestapo officer. Though the Germans are clearly the bad guys here, some situations are much more difficult to limn in black and white.

Writer Russell Lewis observes, “The drama’s episodes are gritty accounts of moral choices, tales of human interest which deal with universal themes—good and evil, triumph and tragedy, and how, in the worst possible crises, human resilience will shine through the darkness.

For his part, TV critic Rob Owen says that it’s primarily the dialogue that makes “Monsignor Renard” such a satisfying drama. “It’s snappy speechifying—especially Renard’s homilies—reminiscent in its intensity of the writing for ‘The West Wing,’” he says.

The Hallmark channel is seen locally on Skycable Channel 38, Home Cable Channel 53 and Destiny Cable Channel 25.

‘Wild On’ goes to Boracay

E’s summer escape takes on its brightest, hottest colors when the entertainment channel’s “Wild On” program heads for Boracay at 11 p.m. today, April 28. The special edition is hosted by Brooke Burke and Jules Asner. The program will also take viewers on a wild ride through Manila’s hottest nightspots.

“Wild On” airs Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday’s on E! Entertainment Television, which is seen locally on Channel 31, Destiny Cable Channel 16, Skycable Channel 64, and Home Cable Channel 16. Starting May 1, E! will be seen on Home Cable Channel 58.

Feedback

From Jesus Natanauan of Talisay, Batangas: “I think the controversy over ‘Live Show’ is senseless because, while the protagonists have expressed their respective points of view on the subject, God’s viewpoint has been overlooked.

“Surely, there is no one who is more qualified than the Creator to decide what is right and wrong. There is absolutely no sense in excluding God from this matter.

“In the name of ‘free expression,’ I am quoting here what God said in the Bible which is relevant to the debate over skin flicks and their attendant ‘artistry’:

“‘Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter; neither shalt thou take her son’s daughter or her daughter’s daughter, to uncover her nakedness—this is wickedness.’ (Leviticus 18:17).

“Such wickedness as cajoling an aspiring actress to disrobe before the camera is committed by filmmakers who, more often than not, have a largely secular outlook, and whose ‘artistic’ films are devoid of moral values or theological underpinnings. You will probably agree if I say that God knows exactly where to consign such people.”

‘Spot’ advance screening

Warner Bros’ new film “Spot” will be screened in advance on May 30 at Robinsons Place Ermita’s Cinema 1. The screening is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Caloocan-Silangan, CFC of MNC, Association of Early Childhood Education, PCS Class of ’74, UST Comm Arts Batch ’78, Numeriano C. Pereña Scholarship Foundation, and Total Events and Athlete Management. Proceeds will go to the Fr. O’Brien Angels Home for Streetchildren in Singalong, Manila.

In “Spot,” David Arquette plays a mailman who offers to babysit the young son of his beautiful neighbor, only to find that he also has to cope with an FBI agent’s drug-sniffing dog, which has escaped from a witness protection program—with mobsters in hot pursuit.

Aga dances up a storm

At 10 p.m. today, on “Keep On Dancing,” Aga Muhlach dances up a storm with his fiancee, program host Charlene Gonzalez. Charlene celebrates her 27th birthday on the show tonight with a dance party. Expect a number of celebrity friends to make a surprise appearance on Charlene’s televised birthday bash.

MUHLACH. Charlene Gonzalez’s special guest on "Keep on Dancing" tonight.

Finding the right voice teacher

By Annie R. Nepomuceno

IN my profession, I have come across people from all walks of life, for we Filipinos love to sing. Music is so prevalent in Filipino culture that at one time or another, we have been asked to join the church choir or glee club, sing at a relative’s wedding, prepare a song for a friend’s surprise birthday party or entertain a *balikbayan* family guest at the neighborhood Family KTV establishment.

Not to mention the presence of numerous celebrities (or not) who sing for a living, or those who do so as part of self-promotion. And whether amateur or professional, these individuals come to someone like me—the Voice Teacher.

Expertise

People seek our expertise because they want to improve their singing. Being a performer myself and a music student, I thought that I was ready to take on the challenge. But since I began teaching I realized that one method of teaching could not apply to everyone. Each person’s voice is as unique and individual as one’s thumbprint. Just think about it: do any two people sound exactly alike?

Although singing seems to be a simple act because almost anybody can do it, it is actually a sophisticated physiological process. Although vocal production is anatomically the same for everybody, each person produces a unique sound. If each person’s voice is unique, then the solution is unique to that individual. Thus, voice lessons must be individualized.

But more specifically, a singer’s goal is to be a well-oiled singing machine: wherein the body can produce the sounds necessary to convey the thought and emotion of the music, the melody and lyrics, by means of the human voice.

A capable voice teacher can pinpoint a student’s vocal problem or weakness. Discovering and analyzing a student’s vocal habits must be the first objective of a teacher who must have extensive performing experience as well as physiological and linguistic knowledge.

Being musically literate—being able to read and write music notation—is a must for a teacher. For vocal problems are not only physical in nature, but may be the result of a student’s musical skills not being developed or coordinated.

Karaoke machines

Almost anybody can get a score of 100 at one of those karaoke scoring machines at the mall! It is more important that teachers be armed with knowledge to impart to an ordinary person. A good teacher is one who is skilled and educated to prescribe a solution as well as carry out the prescription.

Being a voice teacher is a big responsibility for there is no one surefire way to train a person to become a good singer. It is the teacher who must first focus on what is to be dealt with, then the student.

A student will begin sounding better when his voice teacher can address his individual needs. Only then can both be on the right track: developing the voice, the most used means of communication.

(Annie R. Nepomuceno is a voice teacher at Ryan Cayabyab The Music Studio. Enrollment for Music and Movement for ages 3-7 yrs. old is also going on. Call 843-2874 or 844-3330 and ask for Melissa.)

DATE: 3 29 01
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Research to assist.
NOKIA
NOKIA
Menu
Names
Establishing how internet users behave
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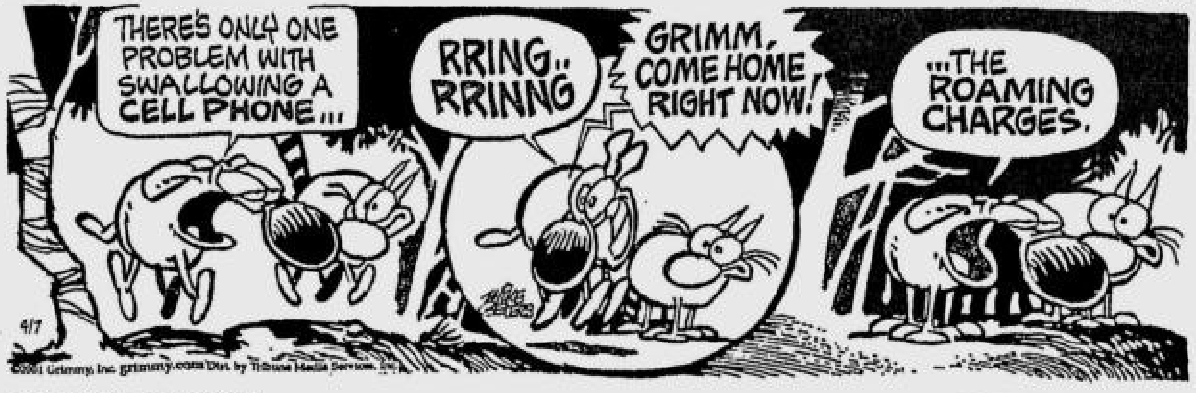
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THERE'S ONLY ONE PROBLEM WITH SWALLOWING A CELL PHONE...
RRING.. RRINNG
GRIMM, COME HOME RIGHT NOW!
...THE ROAMING CHARGES.
4/7
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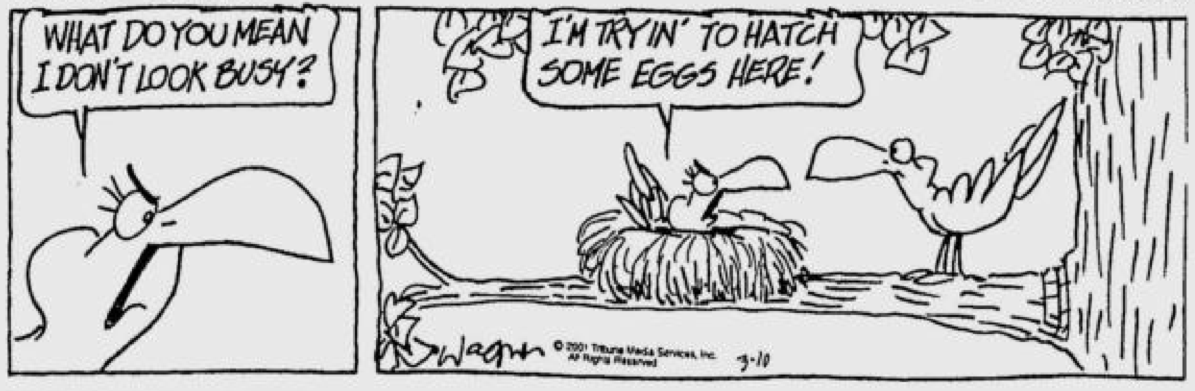
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT DO YOU MEAN I DON'T LOOK BUSY?
I'M TRYIN' TO HATCH SOME EGGS HERE!
Wagner
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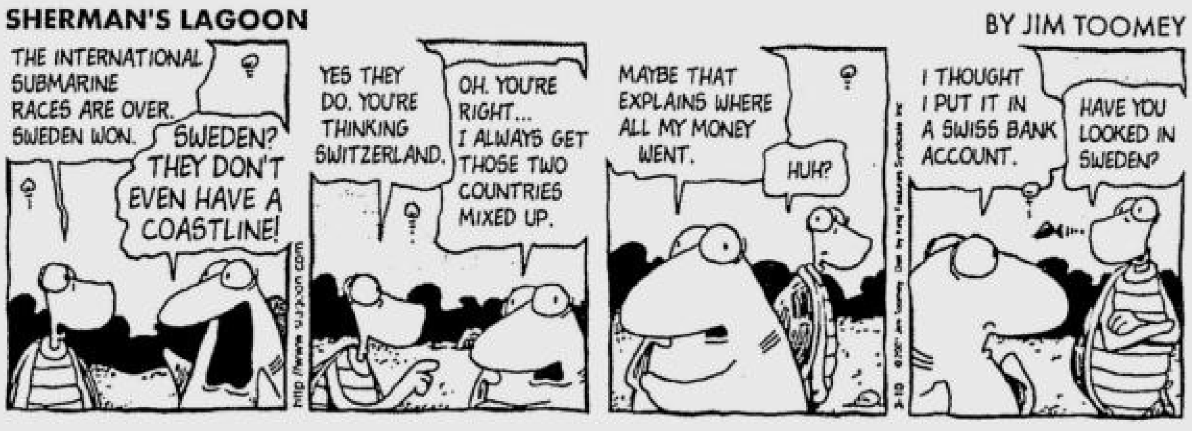
3-10

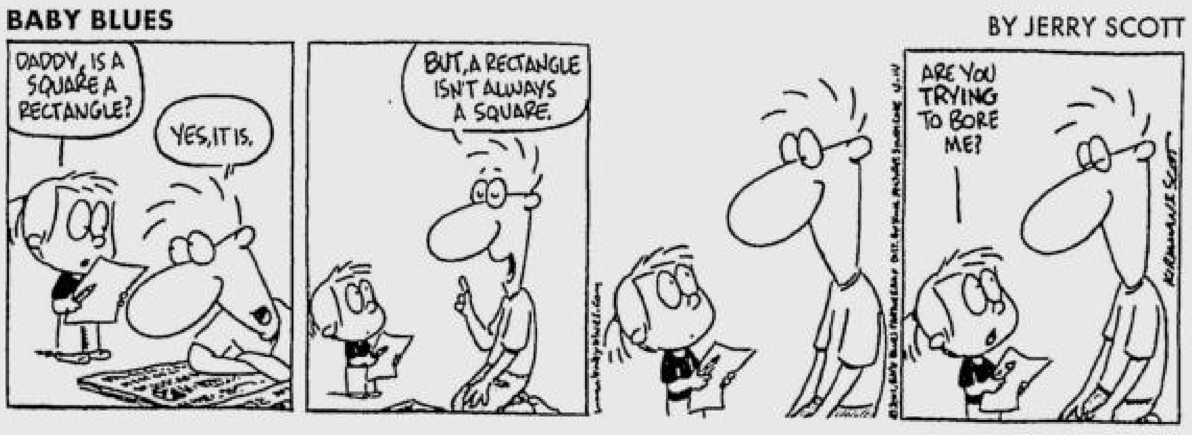
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THE INTERNATIONAL SUBMARINE RACES ARE OVER. SWEDEN WON.
SWEDEN? THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE A COASTLINE!
YES THEY DO. YOU'RE THINKING SWITZERLAND.
OH. YOU'RE RIGHT... I ALWAYS GET THOSE TWO COUNTRIES MIXED UP.
MAYBE THAT EXPLAINS WHERE ALL MY MONEY WENT.
HUH?
I THOUGHT I PUT IT IN A SWISS BANK ACCOUNT.
HAVE YOU LOOKED IN SWEDEN?
http://www.slagoon.com
3-10

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY, IS A SQUARE A RECTANGLE?
YES, IT IS.
BUT, A RECTANGLE ISN'T ALWAYS A SQUARE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO BORE ME?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jay Leno, Ann-Margret, Saddam Hussein, Bruno Kirby, Penelope Cruz

Happy Birthday: This will be a diverse and exciting year. New projects will be all-consuming, but the rewards will be well worth your efforts and time. You must take control so that your leadership abilities are put to good use. The more involved you are, the better the results will be. Your numbers: 18, 22, 26, 31, 37, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional upset will cause temper tantrums. Control your reactions. You need to be more tolerant of others. Not everyone does things the same way you do. Give others the benefit of the doubt.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be feeling restless. Make plans to get out with friends. Organizational functions will be interesting. You'll meet potential mates if you are receptive to their advances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Financial opportunities are apparent. You must not invest more than you can comfortably afford. Your emotions will be hard to control if family members put too many demands on you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let your negative attitude force the ones you love out of your life. You need to sign up for some self-motivation courses that can inspire a positive outlook.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be down in the dumps regarding your personal situation. You can turn that feeling around if you plan a quiet evening for two and lay your cards on the table. Investments will be lucrative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Social events will lead to romance. Your practical approach to life will attract people. Get involved in groups of an intellectual nature.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't overreact to personal dilemmas. Get help if you need it, but most of all stay calm. Take your time if you have to make a decision that will affect your emotional well-being.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make your point heard without being pushy or forceful. Express yourself precisely. Someone who opposes your beliefs may try to misrepresent your intentions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sit back and relax. Projects started today will be a waste of time. You need time to rejuvenate. Enjoy the comfort of your home and the company of loved ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have regrets if you let a disagreement ruin your day. Be careful how you handle your partner. His or her feelings will be easily hurt. Be loving and you'll get an affectionate response.

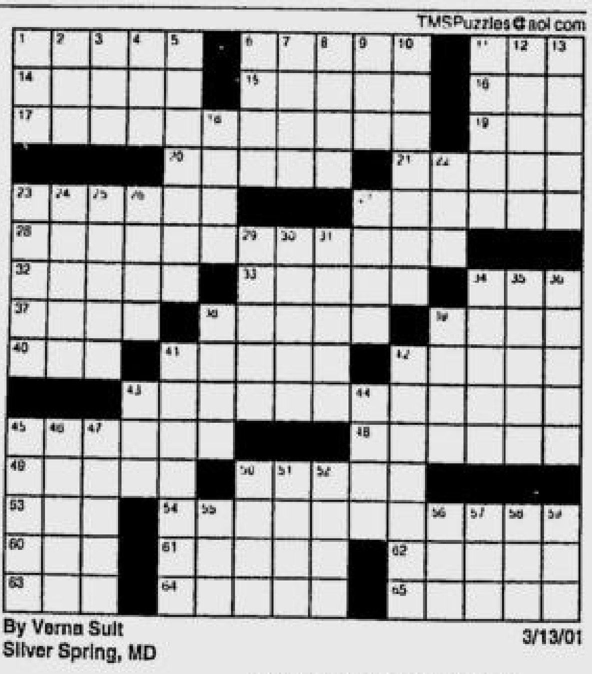
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You should be thinking about ways to make extra cash. Use your inventive imagination and don't be afraid to start your own small business. Get advice from someone who has experience.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Love will manifest itself in the strangest ways. Be sure to get out and socialize at a function that offers intellectual conversation. Fund-raisers will be an ideal setting.

Birthday Baby: You are warm, sensitive and caring. You have an attachment to home and family as well as a need to see the world. Travel, learning and adventure will be your goal.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

3/13/01

ACROSS
1 __ Jessica Parker
6 Poetic rhythm
11 E-mail period
14 Hersey's bell town
15 Texas shrine
16 Unspecified individual
17 High point in Europe
19 Neon or argon
20 Snooze
21 Own up to
23 "Respect" singer Franklin
27 Chicago cow owner
28 High point in Antarctica
32 Acclamation
33 Fred Astaire's sister
34 Profound dread
37 Hind part
38 Conductor Walter
39 Linen source
40 __ Lanka
41 Polish spots
42 Wheel spokes
43 High point in Asia
45 Popularized myth
48 Happenings
49 Tall tales
50 Mail unit
53 "__ Got a Secret"
54 High point in Africa
60 Butterfly catcher
61 Seething
62 Zsa Zsa or Eva
63 Young women's grp.
64 Evil spirit
65 Roast host

DOWN
1 Sleuth Spade
2 Fuss
3 Writer Santha Rama
4 __-Margret
5 Up-and-comer
6 Masculine
7 Hamburg river
8 Infield cover, briefly
9 Ostrich cousin
10 Romberg operetta
11 Doctrine
12 Where lovers walk?
13 Snappish
18 Spirited vigor
22 Dict. entry
23 Declares
24 Kitchen gadget
25 Zhou of China
26 Russian ruler
27 Capital on the Aker River
29 Cheech's surname
30 Mature
31 Meaning
34 Messenger for Standish
35 Middle measurement
36 Goes out
38 One bit per second
39 Cabbie's cargo
41 Providing traction
42 Tit for tat
43 Fellows
44 Aloe __
45 Perjuring
46 Roof's overhang
47 Actress Garbo
50 Lambaste
51 One of The Jacksons
52 Harbinger
55 Anger
56 Tight spot
57 Letters openers
58 Agile deer
59 Raw mineral

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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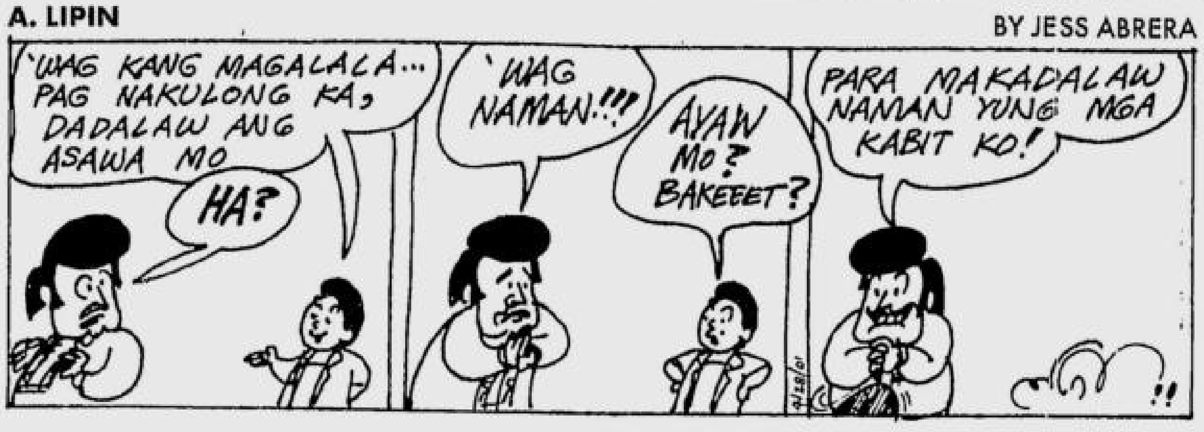
3/13/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

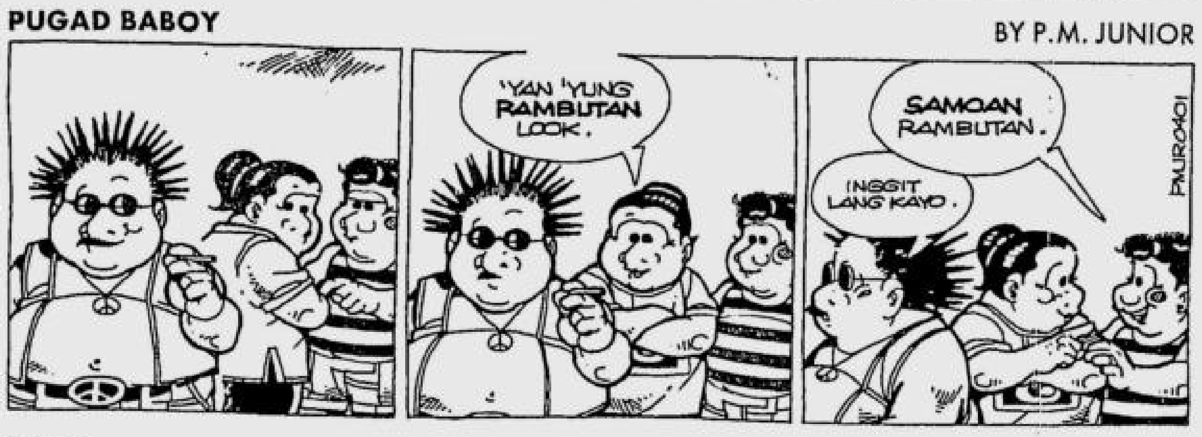
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'WAG KANG MAGALALA... PAG NAKULONG KA, DADALAW ANG ASAWA MO
HA?
'WAG NAMAN!!!
AYAW MO? BAKEEET?
PARA MAKADALAW NAMAN YUNG MGA KABIT KO!
4/28/01
!!

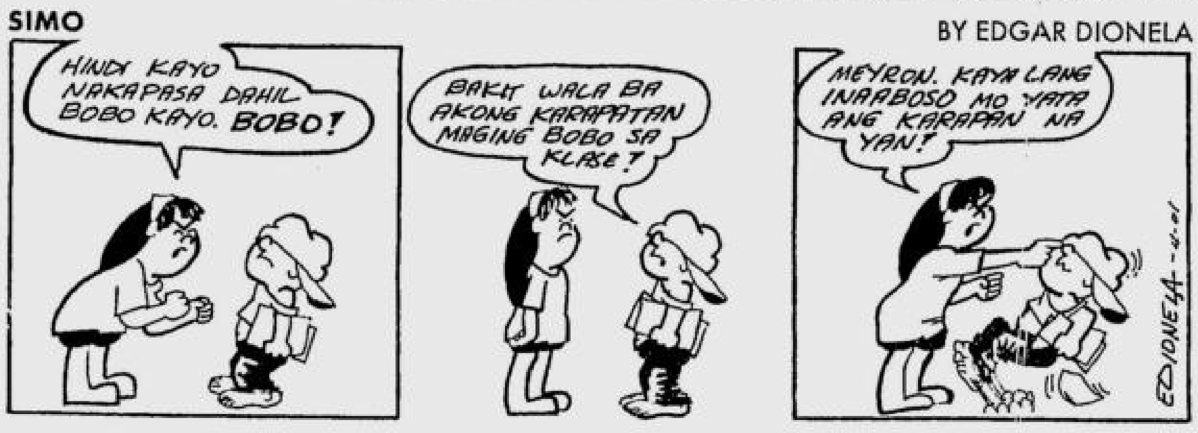
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'YAN 'YUNG RAMBUTAN LOOK.
SAMOAN RAMBUTAN.
INGGIT LANG KAYO.
PMJR0401

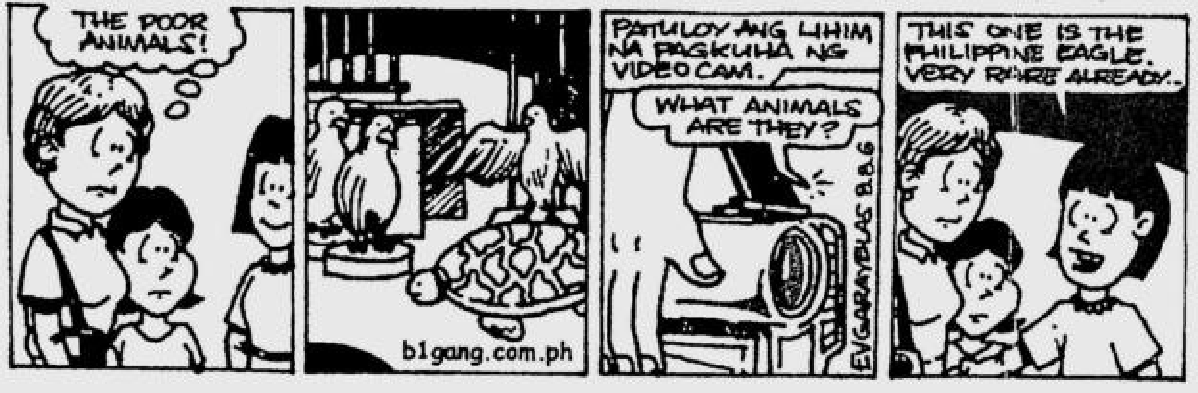
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HINDI KAYO NAKAPASA DAHIL BOBO KAYO. BOBO!
BAKIT WALA BA AKONG KARAPATAN MAGING BOBO SA KLASE?
MEYRON. KAYA LANG INAABOSO MO YATA ANG KARAPAN NA YAN!
EDIONELA 4-01

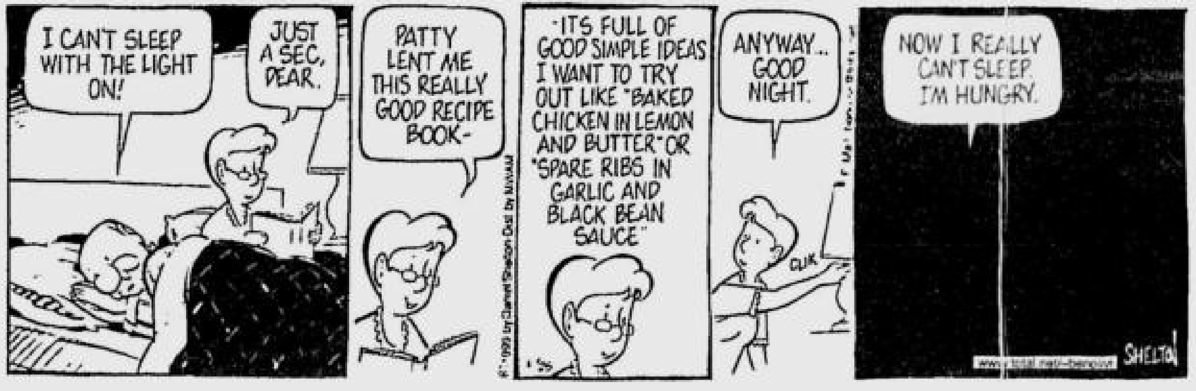
B1 GANG

BY ATS1:1/ JEA/ FEVG


THE POOR ANIMALS!
b1gang.com.ph
PATULOY ANG LIHIM NA PAGKUHA NG VIDEOCAM.
WHAT ANIMALS ARE THEY?
EVGARAYBLAS B.B.G
THIS ONE IS THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE. VERY RARE ALREADY.

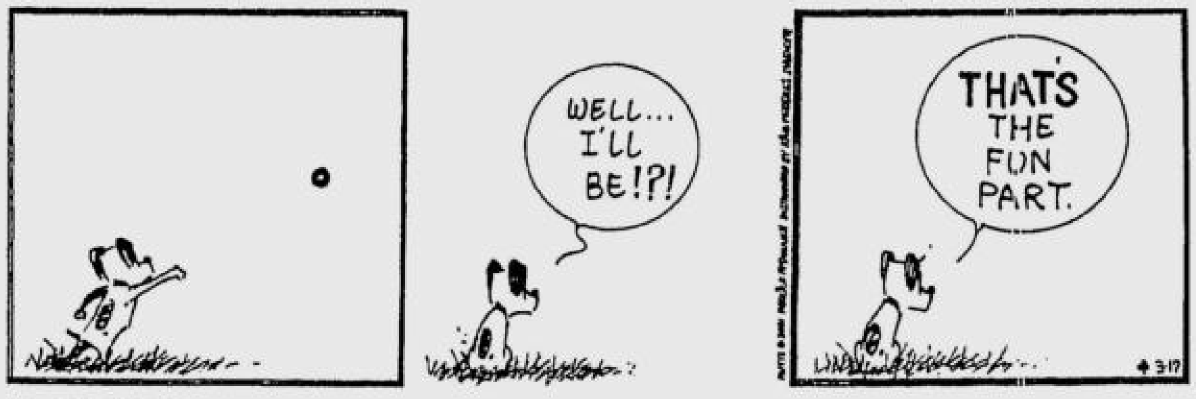
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I CAN'T SLEEP WITH THE LIGHT ON!
JUST A SEC, DEAR.
PATTY LENT ME THIS REALLY GOOD RECIPE BOOK-
-ITS FULL OF GOOD SIMPLE IDEAS I WANT TO TRY OUT LIKE "BAKED CHICKEN IN LEMON AND BUTTER" OR "SPARE RIBS IN GARLIC AND BLACK BEAN SAUCE"
ANYWAY... GOOD NIGHT.
CLIK
NOW I REALLY CAN'T SLEEP. I'M HUNGRY.
SHELTON

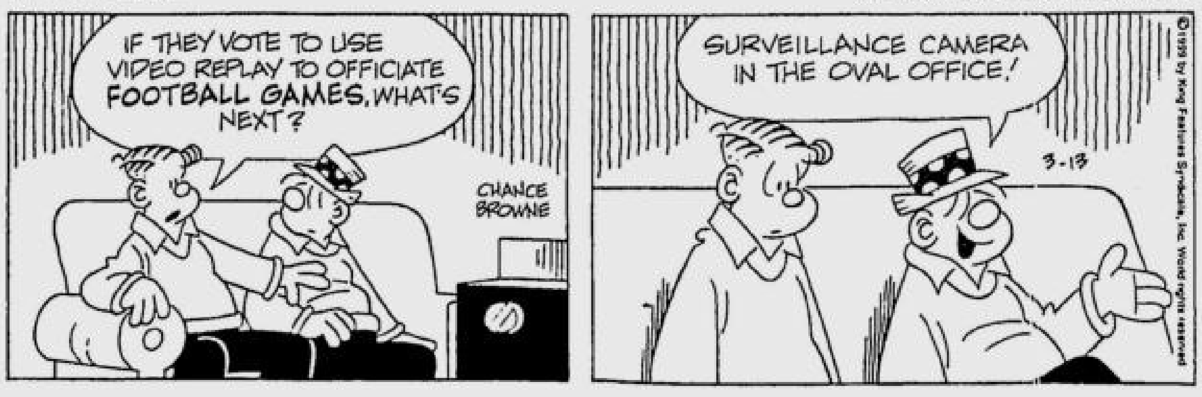
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELL... I'LL BE!?!
THAT'S THE FUN PART.
3-17

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IF THEY VOTE TO USE VIDEO REPLAY TO OFFICIATE FOOTBALL GAMES, WHAT'S NEXT?
CHANCE BROWNE
SURVEILLANCE CAMERA IN THE OVAL OFFICE!
3-13
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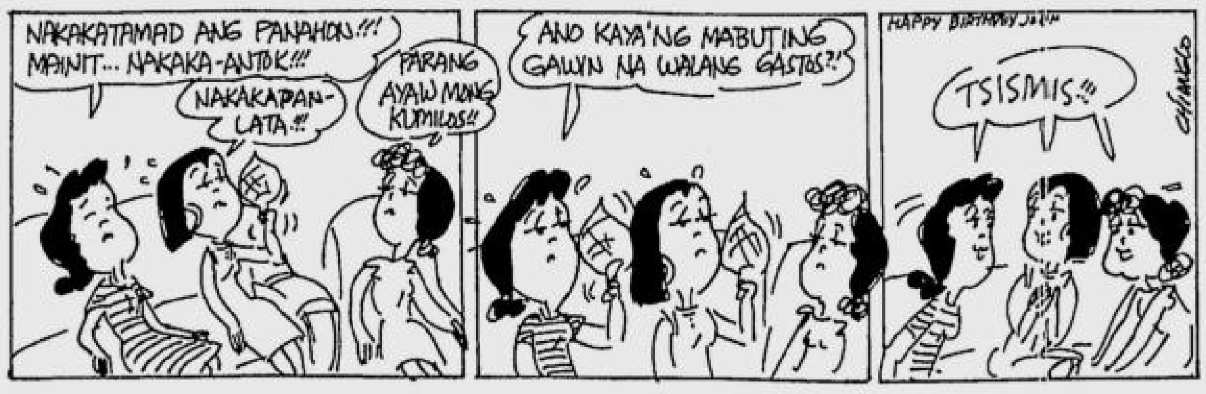
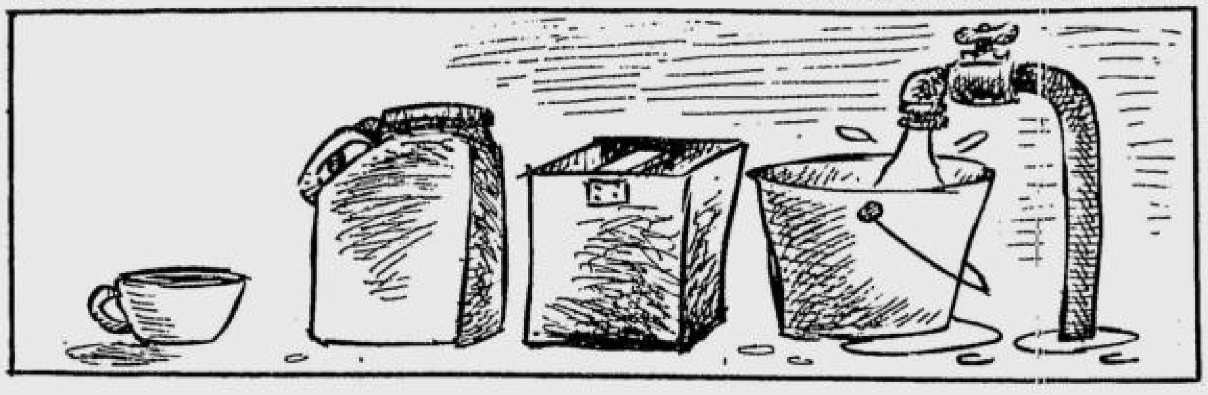
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NAKAKATAMAD ANG PANAHON!!! MAINIT... NAKAKA-ANTOK!!!
NAKAKAPAN-LATA!!!
PARANG AYAW MONG KUMILOS!!
ANO KAYA'NG MABUTING GAWIN NA WALANG GASTOS?!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TSISMIS!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Mareng Winnie Monsod, gifted stage actress

By Behn Cervantes

FEW are aware that Mareng Winnie Monsod, the economist candidate of the People Power Coalition, erstwhile head of Neda, much-admired professor of the UP College of Economics, UN consultant and television host of "Debate," was once upon a time also a stage actress –and a mighty good one, too.

MONSOD. Epic and classic in theatrical stature.

Difficult roles

I should know because I watched her create some mighty impressive characters on the UP stage. I also appeared in some musicals with her. Finally, when I really needed a good and natural actress, I cast her in difficult roles in the mid-'70s. Both of them she essayed with aplomb and style.

There was no doubt about it, she had the temperament. That passion for truth runs in the family. A sense of the theatrical is also apparent in her every move and gesture. She knows how to use a pregnant pause.

The Collas family has a sense of rhythm and timing that is at once beguiling and awesome. Beware if you do not speak the truth, if you espouse the wrong view. A hale of angry words to correct the wrong will come your way without pause.

Winnie followed the footsteps of her elder sister Angie Collas who was a mainstay of the UP Dramatic Club in the early '50s, having for her contemporaries the likes of Ani Desierto (yup, that Ombudsman head, although from the sloppy way he now talks you'd never guess he was a favorite of Wilfrido Ma Guerrero), Jun Roy, Tito Gupit, Joy Gamboa Virata, Joe "Exur" Velez and the very talented Cherry Santos.

Winnie did not appear with the club until she was a junior in college. By then, she was a well-known campus figure and Sigma Deltan, having consistently been an honor student as well as a recipient of academic honors.

Interpretation

I remember how impressed I was with her interpretation of the lead role in Paul Claudel's difficult play "Tidings Brought to Mary." In the impressive cast with Winnie were Etta Pargas, now Rosales of Akbayan, Amelia Reyes (who became a Miss Caltex) and my brother Tony.

The intense and multi-layered performances of Winnie and Tony prodded Freddie Guerrero, our often cantankerous but great mentor, to declare that both Winnie and Tony were really better actors than Angie and me.

He did this when Angie and I became difficult and/or temperamental. Knowing that we were pursuing the thespic art, it was Freddie's blunt way of planting our feet on solid ground.

There was no doubt that Winnie applied herself to any and all tasks at hand. Her stage presence was obvious and so was her drive. She had everything going for her. If she had decided to pursue theater, as did her sister Angie, who got her masters degree in Theater from Baylor University, Winnie would now be one of brightest names on the Philippine stage and probably a pillar of it, too. (I still think she will make a great Medea, or Jocasta. Yes, she is epic and classic in theatrical stature.)

Christian Monsod married *cum laude* Winnie right after we toured Bicol and the Visayas with "Interior 14," a musical ahead of its time as it dealt with social ills and the hopeless plight of slum dwellers.

The music was by Dick Zamora and Cris Gonzales. The book was by the late Nats Vergara and Teddy Gonzaga. Christian wrote the lyrics of the Upsilon Sigma Phi production's most memorable song "In the Hastening Evening Hue" for Winnie.

To this day, when nostalgic fraternity and sorority alumni render the song, they recall the campus romance and inevitable marriage of Winnie and Boy Monsod.

Further studies

Soon after, they left for Philadelphia where Winnie pursued further studies in Econometrics at Wharton while Boy, renamed Christian, pursued a management degree.

When they returned to the country I cast her in a colorful role in Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio's "The Short, Short Life of Citizen Juan" in early 1972. We were at the height of the First Quarter Storm, so the Sigma Delta Sorority under the leadership of Nelia Sancho, Queen of the Pacific then, undertook to produce the play that decried the electoral system of the country.

We were included in the line-up of the World Theater Festival that was held in Manila that year.

MARENG/p.D6

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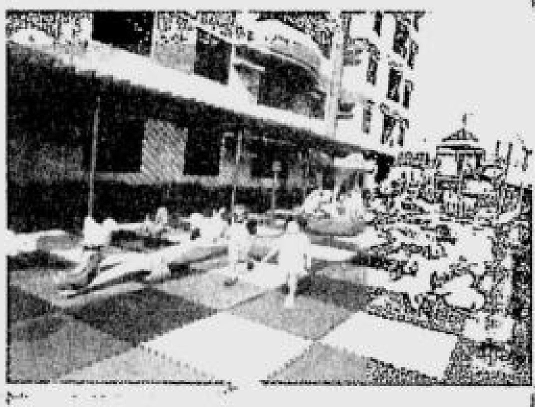

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Melon Silverio prepares to topple the giants

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

I FIRST came across the name "Melon" Silverio when my columnist-cousin Rina Jimenez David wrote about her. It was the first time I'd heard of her catchy, "fruity" name, and I remember being strangely amused by its novelty. Nevertheless, I never thought I'd end up meeting Melon. After all she's not from show biz and neither do I live in the district where she's running for congress.

Lunch

But last week, I found myself having lunch with Melon at he lobby of the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati. It was one of those hot and humid days and I couldn't wait to get inside. While I was being led to my table, my assistant (who went down before I did) came up to me along with a lady in light blue vest and white shirt.

It was Melon Silverio, alright (with husband Abet). She had very little make-up on and a kind smile that seemed to betray years of wisdom and practical knowledge. Her voice was husky and her skin, sunburnt, quiet proofs of how she must've been working hard during her campaign.

Over *kare-kare* and *bistek tagalog*, Melon and I shared an animated conversation. Though it was our first meeting, our lunch glided along smoothly. Melon was such a gracious lady and could talk knowledgeably and extensively about different topics without sounding arrogant or like a know-it-all.

She's the kind of person who makes you feel that you're really being listened to. From time to time, her husband would emerge from the background to give his two centavos' worth.

It was obvious that she had a wonderful marriage with her husband from the way they shared food together and how they understood each other with a mere look.

Nicknames

So who is Melon, really? Born Melinda Silverio, Melon graduated with a degree in Foreign Service. I found out that the childlike Melon got her name from a friend who was fond of giving nicknames. This caught on until she eventually began calling her husband "pakwan" and her partymate and mayoralty candidate Edu Manzano "Mansanas."

No, she is not surprised that many people do not know her. But make no mistake about it: she has been around and has paid her dues as a public servant in a low-profile sort of way.

She has been doing public service by organizing various programs for people ravaged by storms, the Pinatubo eruption and child abuse since 1983. At the time she didn't even see her service as a prelude to a political career.

Melon said she was inspired by the martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino. Prior to that, she was just an average person who didn't know what to do with her life. She woke up one day realizing that she needed to have direction, something worthwhile to work for.

Joining rallies and protests marches, she eventually realized that she could do more through service. A deeply religious woman, she also completed her calling by becoming actively involved in church and community service in their parish.

In 1999, with the support of her husband, she took one step further by running for Barangay Kagawad in Forbes Park. She won. At the time, her kids (two girls and a boy) were still in their teens and it really took a deft balancing act to give equal attention to her responsibilities and her family.

Harsh realities

That stint as Barangay Kagawad opened her eyes to the harsh realities of everyday life for regular folks.

When she was asked if she wanted to join Makati's Clean Team as candidate for congress for this year's elections, she was hesitant. She knew there were many applicants, volunteers even, to the party. "Why me?" she asked. Other people were more popular and had more money than her, she thought.

Many weeks passed by without an answer to the invitation. "I kept thinking,'' Melon said recalling those times. Days were spent discussing the pros and cons with her family. Nights were spent praying for enlightenment.

Then, "I remember entering the church and hearing the lector say, 'We are ambassadors of Christ . . .' At that moment, I felt a strange feeling come over me. I knew what I had to do, I knew my answer," Melon said. She took it as her sign to fulfill a mission of instilling the spirit of renewal and change in people.

So, on the last day of filing for candidacy, Melon finally said yes.

Machinery

Now that the elections are almost here, Melon looks back and realizes how big the task is for her. Though she has the machinery to back up her candidacy, her personal campaign management plan is as unassuming as she is: going house-to-house and meeting people.

"But I don't do things differently just to win votes. It's 'what you see is, what you get' with me," she said. Many times she has to dole out money from her own pocket when people approach her for their needs while attending various "KBLs" (Kasal-Binyag-Libing).

Melon admits that she is facing a tough fight. In fact, people have been telling her that there's still time to quit. Considering that she has only few friends, the challenge of making herself and her platform known among the constituents of her district is a formidable one, indeed. Many times, rival candidates chide her saying, "*Bubulukin ko lahat ng prutas na 'yan.*" But Melon just smiles and holds her head high.

Thanks to her impeccable record and the word-of-mouth "fame" her work has generated, Melon knows that's as far as they can go in slinging mud at her name.

When I ask Melon if she expects to win, she gives a simple but straightforward "Yes." She rationalizes that, since she never planned these things and that all fell naturally in place, she believes that her fate is now in the hands of a greater power.

"They will get the surprise of their lives," Melon said. "I will use my faith to topple the giants. Faith is the reason why I ran and it's the same faith that will make me win!"

SILVERIO. What you see is what you get.

Welcome home, Ayen Munji

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

SHARON Cuneta's Channel 2 show last Sunday scored a coup when it guested Ayen Munji, who for eight years was one of the wives of a fabulously wealthy prince of an Asian kingdom.

Coup

Ayen's guesting was a coup because, all this while, she has stayed away from the public's eye due to the requirements of royal protocol. Now that she's divorced the prince and married singer Franco Laurel, however, she's decided to go public about her life before and now, and Sharon's program was chosen as the showcase for her "official" reentry into the Philippine scene.

All these years, we've known about Ayen's story because she was one of our musical-theater talents early in her singing, acting and dancing career, but we held back from writing about her to give her the privacy she craved.

Mutual friends

From time to time, we heard about her from mutual friends who performed with her abroad in the private musical productions she would periodically stage at the palace, to keep her love for singing and theater alive despite the ban on public performances by royals like herself.

They gushed about Ayen's luxurious lifestyle, her incredible jewels, the scores of household help who served her hand and foot, her amazingly generous gifts to the people she liked, etc.

Eventually, however, the royal marriage soured, and Ayen longed to regain her freedom, not only from the marital union, but also from the opulent but severely restricted life of a princess.

Wrong notions

Ayen's guesting on Sharon's show cleared up many wrong notions about her life as a princess then, and as Franco's wife today.

She was wise to pick Sharon's program as the venue for clearing up the mystery shrouding her life abroad not just because "Sharon" is a popular show with a huge following, but also because its host is a responsible TV person who can be depended on to give an unexaggerated account of Ayen's unusual and unusually privileged existence in the 1990s.

No rules

Since Ayen did feel comfortable with Sharon last Sunday, she told her story in a particularly warm and forthcoming way. She still looked like a princess, but she could now also be herself, with no rules of protocol to limit her statements and actuations.

What came through most endearingly of all was the fact that, despite her years of living in incredible luxury in many countries abroad, Ayen was still a Filipina to the core. That's why she decided to live in the Philippines after her divorce, when she could have chosen to reside in London, New York, or any other glittering world capital she desired.

Interval

Now that Ayen has opted to live here, we trust that we will soon see her performing in public again, after an interval of 10 years. She's an outstanding musical-theater talent whose performance can enhance some of our homegrown productions.

Perhaps she can also produce some innovative productions, like she did with "Rama at Sita" in 1998, to give local musicals a shot in the arm? Welcome home, Ayen!

MUNJI. Still a Filipina to the core.

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May 6 - Town Plaza, ALABANG TOWN CENTER (4-5 PM)
May 12 - Atrium, EVER GOTESCO ORTIGAS COMPLEX (3-4 PM)
May 13 - Atrium, ALI MALL, ARANETA CENTER (3-4 PM)
May 19 - Fountain Area Phase III, STA.LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL (3-4 PM)
May 20 - Entertainment Area, STORYLAND, SM CITY FAIRVIEW (3-4 PM)
May 26 - 2nd Level Carousel Court, FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, FILINVEST ALABANG (3-4 PM)
May 27 - Center Stage, DREAMTOWN, LEVEL 3 ROBINSON'S PLACE MANILA (3-4 PM)
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(8) Cookbook winners may win only once throughout the event
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Mareng . . .

(From page D5)

Nestor Torre and Ruby Umali *aka* Dayangdayang, Manila's foremost ramp model then played the lead roles. Winnie and Tony along with Cota and Teddy Yabut, Vic and Nanette Puyat, Joonee Gamboa plus a few other kindred souls contributed their talent, time and dedication to the production.

Winnie gave all of the above, but during one performance she gave too much, or obeyed my instructions too well. I had given orders to the rather large cast to clear the backstage. They were given rooms or made to wait outside Abelardo Hall when they were not in the scenes.

I assigned Winnie to give a cue to harassed Nestor, who was onstage practically for all the scenes. Well, Winnie was out of the way, but too far out so she didn't hear the cue for Nestor's entrance, and he thus missed his cue.

Was Nestor pissed? Was Winnie embarrassed? Does she remember the incident to this day? The answer is yes, yes, yes!

Rehearsals

Then I cast her as Kapinangan in Recaredo Demetillo's Palanca award-winning verse play "The Heart of Emptiness Is Black," presented by the UP Repertory Company in the summer of 1974. Winnie was carrying her youngest at that time but she made her house available for rehearsals, swimming sessions and plain camaraderie.

The young cast made up of then neophytes Menggie Cobarrubias, Cris Michelena and others loved Winnie's company. She was professional and cooperative in every way. In short, she was as fine a role model as I could find. Bibeth Orteza remembers that production with great affection. I remember the fine publicity work of Bibeth and her committee.

Winnie had great rapport with her younger leading men. Our happy experience in that massive production led us to produce for a Palanca anniversary presentation at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Fidel Sicam's riotous comedy "Pitong Taon."

In that play, Winnie again showed her great timing, intelligence and fine sense of the ridiculous as an aging miss courted by a shy man for seven long years. She again worked well with Menggie, Cris Vertido, Tony Mabesa and Bibot Amador. The cast and crew loved her once more for her unique persona.

Best effort

Winnie always gives every job she accepts her best effort. When I note the dedication and energy she displays in her campaign sorties, and read about her get-up-and-go spirit, I am not surprised at all. Indeed, Winnie puts her heart, soul and mind into anything and everything she does.

If she pursued acting, she'd be one of our very best. But she chose to teach and she was excellent. She was appointed to run Neda and her record there has not been equaled since. She opted to host a popular television show, and she was acclaimed for her work.

Now, she has chosen to run for senate to be able to better serve the country. What do I think about that? I bet my bottom peso that Winnie will be equally effective as a senator. In that hall she is sure to make a difference and redefine the meaning of integrity in these very confusing times.

Theater's loss is the country's gain, I say. I miss her acting skills but I accept that loss for the good of the senate. The ultimate benefits her presence and person will have in that branch of the government will redound to the long-term good of the country. As we say in theater, break a leg ,Winnie!

Marlon Sediño goes Latin with Asciano Mixx

MONTAGE

GERMANY based singer Marlon Sediño, who is best remembered for his Tagalized version of the James Taylor classic "You've Got a Friend," is back in the country.

Marlon will be performing with the Asciano Mixx band every Wednesday of May at Hard Rock Cafe for the venue's "Music for Life" series. The series will promote alternative music ranging from retro to folk rock to classic mellow rock, and in the case of Asciano Mixx, Latin pop.

Showtime is at 8:30 p.m. Call 825-0565.

Jolina's album nears platinum

Jolina Magdangal's third album, "Red Alert, which was launched recently at Pheonomena, is nearing platinum status. The album is a compilation of Jolina's greatest hits, which have been re-arranged in a disco remix.

Zsa Zsa Padilla in concert

Viva Concerts presents "High on Love," a concert featuring Zsa Zsa Padilla, Janno Gibbs and Freestyle today, April 28 at the Yñares Center in Antipolo City.

Call 413-2572.

Free albums

Mossimo is offering a summer treat for music lovers. For every purchase worth P2,500 at any Mossimo free-standing store, buyers will get a free copy of "Love Concert," Viva Concerts' Valentine offering this year at Araneta Coliseum.

The concert featured Lani Misalucha, Freestyle and Zsa Zsa Padilla.

Election special

It only happens here: the convergence of stars and celebrities, pomp and pageantry, gold and glamour. It is the fiesta to end all fiestas: The Philippine Election!

Trace the history of this phenomenon from the days of the Commonwealth to the recent past. Look through the eyes of teachers, religious, social analysts and historians as they try to make sense of this event and what makes these elections truly Filipino. Join Pidro the everyman as he discovers what makes "Eleksyong Pinoy."

"Eleksyong Pinoy" stars Danny Javier as Pidro, as well as a multitude of politicians playing themselves. Written by Pete Lacaba and produced by the Jesuit Communications Foundation, "Eleksyong Pinoy" features in-depth interviews with members of the academe, Church and government, providing a more sensible look at Philippine Elections, in the hope of educating the Filipino voter.

"Eleksyong Pinoy" airs on the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC 21) on May 5, 2001, 8:30pm.

Search for models

A-One Entertainment and Circle of 10 Modelling Agency announce the screening schedules for "Circle of 10: Image Models Search 2001." Screening dates will be on May 7, 8 and 9 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The annual search is open to all males and females between 15 to 20 years old, single, at least 5'2" for girls and 5'5" for boys. They must be articulate in English and Pilipino, currently staying in the Philippines, with no previous experience in the field of commercials, TV and movies.

Call 728-9817.

'Click' in Boracay

After what seems like eternity waiting a delayed flight, the "Click" *barkada* finally get to the beaches of Boracay. Upon arrival at the airport, one of the girls accidentally picks up the wrong bag at the airport. She only realizes her mistake when the group gets to the resort and discovers that the bag contains lots of money.

"Click" airs today at 4 p.m. on GMA.

Focus on Brosnan

Star Movies' "Star Profile" focuses on the life and career of Pierce Brosnan on April 30 at 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Brosnan sits down for an exclusive interview and talks about being abandoned by his father, surviving poverty, losing the role of a lifetime and the tragic and devastating loss of his wife to cancer.

Also included are interviews with "Remington Steele" co-star Stephanie Zimbalist, friend Lily Tartikoff and actor Robin Williams.

Banderas' adventure movie

Antonio Banderas stars in "The Thirteenth Warrior" on Star Movies on May 5 at 7:15 p.m. Also starring are Diane Venora, Dennis Storhoi, Vladimir Kulich and Omar Sharif. The movie is based on Michael Crichton's "Eaters of the Dead."

After a political indiscretion, Banderas is banished from his homeland and sent as an emissary to a distant land. He joins a band of Norse warriors who are summoned to fight mysterious creatures.

'Carrie' on Star Movies

Brian de Palma unleashes the paralyzing story of horror and revenge, "Carrie" on Star Movies on May 5 at 2:30 a.m. and 10:45 p.m. The movie features Sissy Spacek in the title role, John Travolta and Piper Laurie.

Spacek plays an introverted teenager who lives with her fanatically religious mother (Laurie) and possesses powers that are set loose when she is angry. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

SEDIÑO. Tagalized version of "You've Got A Friend."

Meet the members of my photo workshop's Batch 2001

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT USED to be summer outings to some beaches, but now more and more adventurous people take self-enrichment courses during vacation time.

There is something about summer and photography. It must be the sunburst of light in summer. Twenty-one photo enthusiasts have joined Batch 2001 of our photo workshop—diverse individuals brought together by a common bond—the love of photography. Their goal—to be skillful and creative with their use of the camera.

Tanned

Photo shows 19 participants, front row L-R: Joanne V. Arong, 30, single, with an MS in Development Studies from the London School of Economics. Joy is tanned as she is into diving and surfing. She loves black-and-white photography.

Catalino Celzo, 37, single, is a native of Pangasinan who took up Aeronautics Engineering at PATS. Toto is checking out how he can be a pro in the field of photography and make it a source of income.

Louie Lopez, 31, is happily married with three kids, works as a company photographer for PLDT.

Ronald Navasero, 15, this writer's nephew, is in junior high school. Boogie lives in their farm in Los Baños, Laguna.

Dennis Maliwat, 30, travels a great deal in relation to his work at Nokia. While on assignment in foreign countries, he shoots a lot of pictures.

Senior year

Second row L-R: Anastasia "Stacey" Memije, 23, single, is in her senior year in film production at UP Diliman. This athletic girl wants to be a travel photographer.

Amanda Navasero, 10, this writer's daughter, is in Grade IV at St. Scholastica-Manila, has been taking pictures of family gatherings and other events.

Third row L-R: Ma. Theresa Carlos, a graduate of ComArts from the Ateneo de Davao, has two lovely daughters ages 12 and 10. Through the camera, Theresa wishes to express her artistry.

Anna Marie Padre, 40, single, obtained her degree in Psychology and Marketing Management at De La Salle University. She wants to improve her travel shots and check out other opportunities in the field of photography.

Audrey Alejo, 30, single, graduated from St. Paul College, major in computer secretarial, and hopes to have more hands-on training in photography.

Abigail Caluya, 24, is a dentist and would like to capture the images she sees in her mind.

Fourth row L-R: Josephine Ang-Francis is the most creative of the batch. A Malaysian, she is in Manila as her husband is the country manager of Microsoft Philippines. Joined the workshop to produce creative photographs.

Emily Paradies, 19, attends the workshop to earn leverage prior to her art studies in London. Photography is what she wants to do as a career and she likes the works of Floria Sigismondi for "they are dark and shocking."

Food business

Bernardine Siy joined the workshop to learn the language of photography as she often works with photographers in their family food business, Kenny Rogers. She has an MA in finance and accounting from the J.L. Kellog Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago.

April Lou Pacifico, 17, graduated from high school at St. Benedict College Alabang and is an incoming student in arts, advertising and production.

Atty. Ma. Theresa Dela Rosa, 33, single, is a graduate of San Beda College of Law, now working with Britanico, Consunji & Sarmiento Law Firm.

Last row: Renato Fernandez, 34, attended Brent International School and De La Salle University. Ato studied cinematography in NYU in the summer of '99. He is in the business of camera and DV rentals and editing.

Atty. Elvin Reyes is with Puno & Puno Law Offices. He took up BS Aeronautics Engineering at PATS and obtained a law degree at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Riemolito Chang, 20, single, attends to the family business and has been shooting for sometime. Ricky enjoys doing black-and-white photography.

Not in picture are Bianca Montenegro, a lovely 19-year-old psychology student at the Ateneo de Manila University and Sheloian "Ian" Tañedo, 21, a De La Salle University graduate.

Today at 10 a.m., educator, poet, museum curator, art critic and journalist Emmanuel Torres will speak on Photographic Composition.

BATCH 2001. Photography buffs, one and all.

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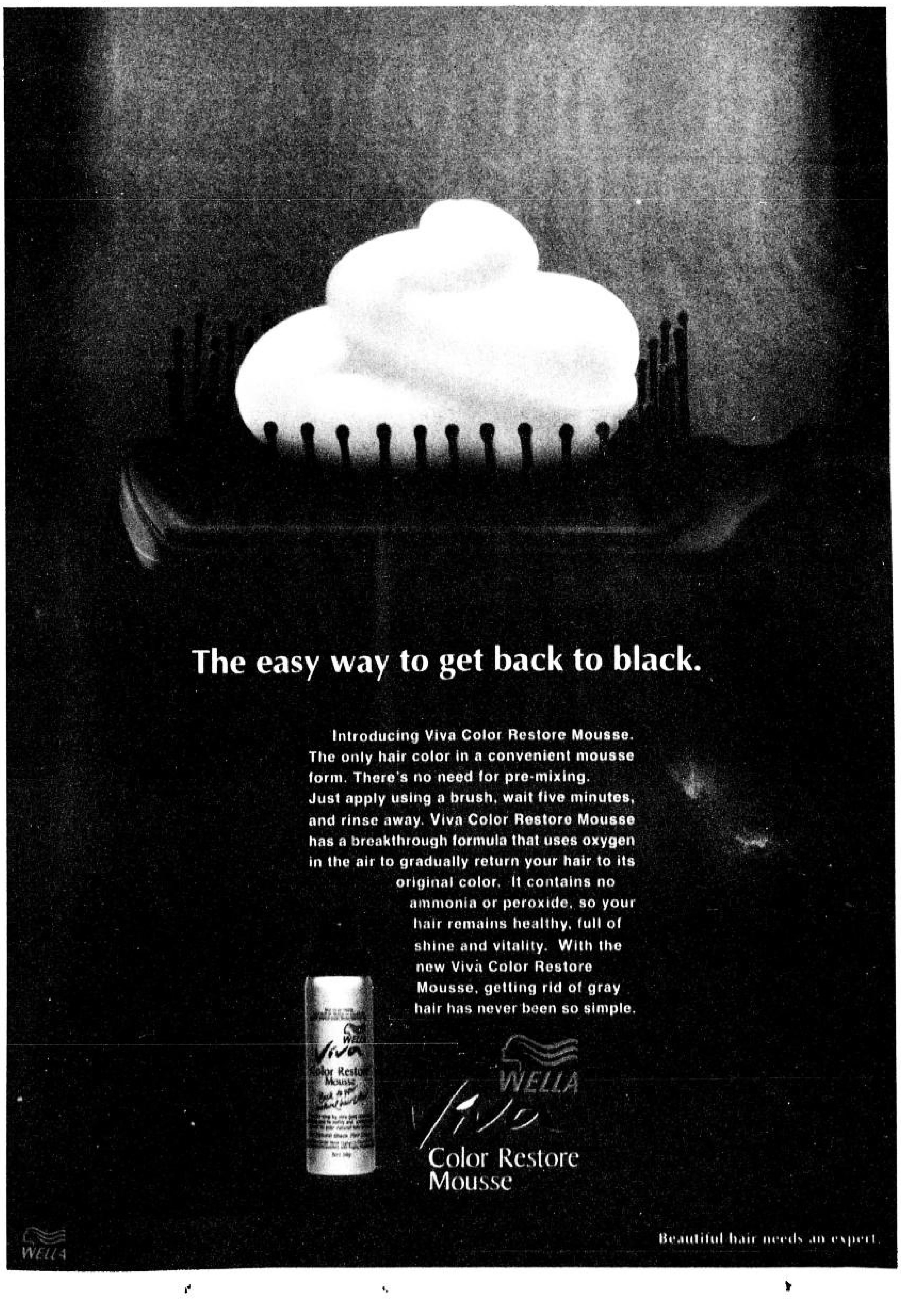
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Beautiful hair needs an expert.

Raquel Villavicencio talks about her latest movie

By Edmund L. Sicam

Recently, Maverick Films, a new movie outfit, held a presscon to promote its initial productions. There's an action flick titled "Mananabas" starring and directed by Cesar Montano. It promises to be a "highly budgeted action film set in a military atmosphere." He is joined by Jo Canonizado, Mutya ng Pilipinas-Asia Pacific 2000, who is making her film debut.

Reunion

The second film is an onscreen reunion between yet another action star, Ronnie Ricketts and his wife Mariz in "Mano-Mano 2." Ronnie also does double duty here as actor and director in a film that promises to "present the challenge and excitement of streetfighting". Ronnie and Mariz are joined by Klaudia Koronel.

The maiden offering of Maverick Films is called "Luv Text" which is another reunion-themed movie, with former off-screen sweethearts Judy Ann Santos and Wowie de Guzman heading the cast, directed by Rowell Santiago. The film also stars Nida Blanca, comedienne Wilma Doesnt, Carlo "Hello Billy" Munoz , Luis Alandy and Russel C. Mon. The script was written by Ricky Lee and Raquel Villavicencio.

We sat down with Raquel and asked her about the film:

What's the movie about?

It's about texting, about conducting a love affair via text messages versus something like writing love letters or a real courtship.

So, what's more effective?

Watch the ending, the movie will answer that.

Message of the movie?

Love knows no time, transcends all barriers and all centuries. Love is forever whether you text, write love letters, whether you're in the '50s or in the '90s or in the millennium, love will always follow and redeem you.

Was it more difficult to write this than something dramatic like "Abandonada"?

The difficulty lay in the fact that I had to go and make some kind of research into the text generation, which I don't belong to. To them, this is their lifeline.

New user

I had to find out the language of text. I'm a new cellphone and text user. *Taranta pa ako sa* text. This generation, they're talking and texting at the same time.

So what did you discover in your research?

1. They can't do without it.

2. There's a language that's all their own, the abbreviations and all — and I have a sinking feeling our language will change because of text. Even writing is going to change. There are fewer words, and, I have a feeling, less thinking. They can't afford to answer back after 20 minutes, *hindi ganoon*. When they get a message, they have to answer it right away, *ganoon na ang* energy *ng katawan*, the instinct. *Kailangan sagutin kaagad!*

3. Hindi na uso ang mag-usap sa cell. It's sending messages.

4. It's fast. They can compose really fast!

As a mom, do you think it is a good or bad thing for this generation?

I feel, that's their language, *e*. In our generation, we had our own, every generation had one. Just so happens that theirs is this one.

Did you feel a generation gap when you were writing the script?

Yes. That's why I interviewed my daughter, an avid texter. But I was given the basic *kuwento*, I just fleshed it out. But even then, it was like the way I wrote "Batch 81." When I wrote that for Mike de Leon, I was already out of college. *Matagal na ako wala sa eskwelahan noon.*

Research

So I admitted to Mike, in order to write something about students I feel like I have to go back to school to do some research. I couldn't just write about the students without knowing what was going on in schools. What I did was attend a class in Ateneo for about two weeks, *nag*-sit in *lang ako. Para makuha ko lang* what's happening in classrooms and campuses, just to get a feel.

I did research on that. In the same way, I felt like I couldn't write this without at least investigating what really goes on with the texters.

As a writer, do you feel like you have to be as young as the characters in the story?

No, but I still believe if you are insecure about your subject matter, or if you don't want to fictionalize it – because it's really easy to do that – *pero lumalabas na hindi totoo*, and people watching it will know it isn't real – the best is, never fail to do research on something you don't know about.

As a writer, there are givens, like for this one, this is a movie starring Judy Ann. How does this affect your writing?

Mas magaan ang trabaho ko if I know who the actors are. It's very hard for me to write a script without any idea who's going to act in it. If it's Juday, you already know how to write it for her.

Alam mo kung anong roles *na* comfortable *siya. Alam mo kung ano ang* inexpect ng audience *sa kanya, alam mo na, ay, ito ginawa na niya dati, huwag na natin gamitin.* For me, it's always best to know – and it's always my number one question, "*Sino ang artista?*" *Mahirap* when you don't know who's starring.

VILLAVICENCIO. Language is changing because of texting craze.

SANTOS AND DE GUZMAN. Stars of "Luv Text."

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Lisa Kudrow gets lucky

YES, she's from the Valley. And yes, her most memorable roles are the well meaning but dim-bulb ones. But Lisa Kudrow's imbecility ends there. A biology graduate of Vassar College, Kudrow's ambitions actually lay in the research lab rather than a set, studying the evolution of brain chemistry through environmental influence on social behaviors.

Not exactly the starry-eyed dreamer type. And get this: When acting sidelined her biology career, Kudrow trained with the famed Groundlings improv troupe before landing a gig on "Friends," which became of the highest-rated sitcoms of the '90s.

Acclaim

Her big-screen career included "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" before winning acclaim and Oscar buzz as a repressed spinster in "The Opposite of Sex."

So where else does Kudrow need to go? Villainous, according to her latest film, "Lucky Numbers." Showcasing the latest of Kudrow's shrewd big-screen choices, the 37-year-old actress plays a role that might shock her audience: a Lottery girl named Crystal who schemes with local weatherman Russ (John Travolta) to rig the state draw.

In her obsession to get away with the crime, however, Crystal begins to reveal a sinister side, resorting to sex, lies and even murder to get her way.

"She's the kind of person who has no fear," Kudrow muses. "You meet people who seem so ambitious or out of line all the time . . . She just has a low opinion of everyone around her she can be so obvious and obviously awful—and get away with it."

In fact, Kudrow had a little too much fun with it—improvising a tirade of expletives that that will likely surface only on the film's DVD version.

Carried away

"I think I got carried away at times," she jokes. "Because I know they had to edit out a lot the bad language I added."

It's nothing you'd see her 'Friends" persona do. In fact, Kudrow's work as the sweet but dense hippie masseuse Phoebe Buffay has been singled out from the ensemble cast, earning five supporting actress Emmy nods (winning in 1998).

KUDROW. Shrewd big-screen choices.

When contract negotiations put the show's future in question, it was Kudrow where reportedly stepped up and led her co-stars to stand firm until a more satisfying salary agreement was reached.

But contrary to popular belief, Kudrow hasn't picked her roles based on their contrast to her "Friends" persona. "Maybe that's why those are the more interesting ones to me," she allows.

"But it wasn't something I had to think long and hard about. Nora Ephron calls you at home and says, 'I'm directing a movie John Travolta is the star and it's a great script.' And you read it and it is . it's not a lot of work to decide to do it."

But Kudrow, who lives with husband Michael Stern and their 2-1/2-year old son, Julian, is at a place where her versatile career choices have provided her with success beyond the craze her sitcom has generated.

Celebrity

"Before I became an actress, I used to think, 'When I get famous . . . there's so much love for you. And I think that's what everyone's after with trying to achieve celebrity. And the truth is I'm glad people are finding it, even for 15 minutes, so they can then learn that that work has to be done by yourself. It's not gonna come from out there."

She adds: "I think there's both [love and hate from the public] there. And neither one can mean much to you." Smart girl!

Saturday SPECIAL

Matt Dillon showcases Cambodia in 'Banyan Trees'

By Hillary Jackson

KAMPOT, Cambodia—Actor Matt Dillon began a love affair with Cambodia in 1993 when, at a friend's urging, he visited the war-torn country's fabled Angkor temples.

Affection

Since then, he has visited Cambodia seven or eight times and has lost none of his

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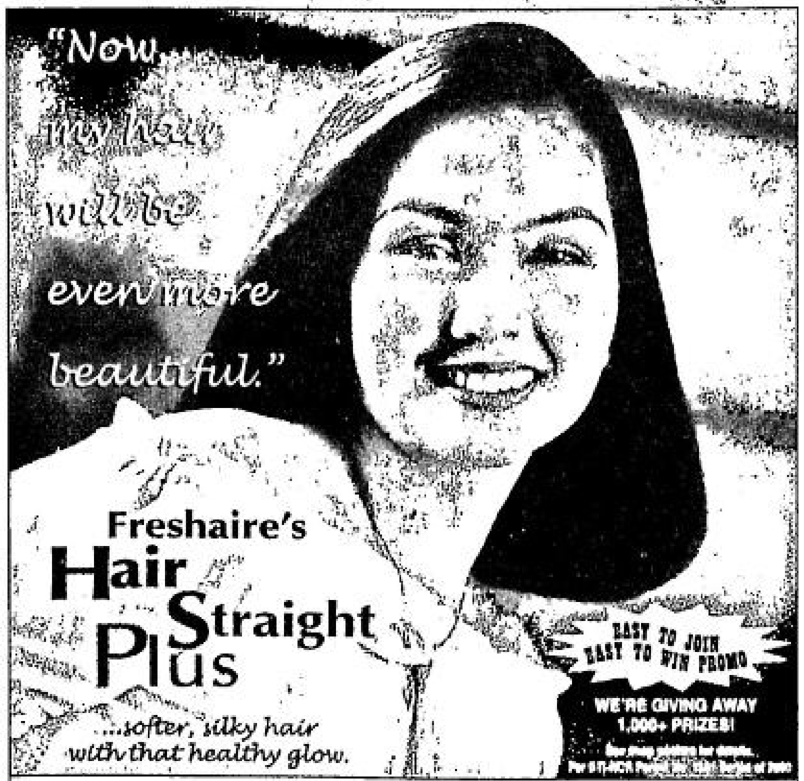
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ALBUM REVIEW

Songs about love and life in the real, adult sense

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

Here We Come
A1
Sony Music

YOU'LL like this album if you want a dose of gushy love lyrics and sad songs that speak of broken promises. Ben, Christian, Mark and Paul sound just like any other boyband, and there's nothing distinct about their voices, but they try to blend well.

Forever

"Forever In Love" makes you believe that love can indeed last forever. The melody is soothing and the lyrics are mushy. Listening to lines like "we'll find a solution to keep my heart close to you" and "if you hold me, believe me, I'll never, never, ever leave" makes you want to cuddle up with someone.

A1. Soothing melody, mushy lyrics.

The upbeat tempo of "Be the First to Believe" successfully disguises their vocal limitations. The lyrics seem uninspired and shallow, however, Crooning "just one on one! That's the way we do it baby" doesn't exactly leave a deep impression.

"Summertime of Our Lives" is perfect for a teen summer movie. It's young, fun and upbeat. It leaves you with a nice, real feeling of summer.

Teenage crushes

"Ready or Not" makes you remember your teenage crushes. The song reminds you of foolish and silly adventures.

"Everytime" and "Like A Rose" are sentimental, romantic and touching ballads. The singing is laid-back and mellow, so it makes each song more personal and truthful.

The Promise
Plus One
Warner Music

This boy band claims that Plus One means "Plus God" and it's evident in each song. Sure, they have the usual pop and R&B sound, but they also weave a clear, strong message of faith, hope and love.

"Here In My Heart" inspires you to be grateful for the precious moments you spend with loved ones. The melody is simple and soulful.

"I Will Rescue You," "Soul Tattoo," and "When Your Spirit Gets Weak" speak of unconditional love and undying faith. Each song appears to be an English variation of Gary Valenciano's "Take Me Out of the Dark," but their version is subtler, soulful and solid.

"My Life" is an upbeat, hard-driving song that encourages the youth to fix the mess in their lives.

"Last Flight Out" is an emotional but laid-back ballad. It speaks of love and yearning.

Blues

If you're down in the dumps, this album can perk you up and help you get rid of the blues. It's also good for your eardrums because Nathan Walters, Nate Cole, Gabe Combs, Jeremy Mhire and Jason Perry blend effortlessly together.

Wired to Screaam
Wyrd
Universal Records

wyrd
wired 2 scream

WYRD. Just the honest-to-goodness truth.

Pinoys generally like gentle sentimental songs but Wyrd injects angst, wit and sarcasm into their sentimental songs.

"Gone" and "Scream" speak of love gone sour. But the lyrics don't speak of martyrdom and loneliness. With complete abandon and exuberant feeling, Wyrd innocently sings about heartbreak. They're weary but strong. Morose but sad. It's gritty but emotional.

"Paano Ba?" is about unrequited love,—again. But the hopeless romantics in them have grown-up. They want their crush to notice them, but they also have realistic expectations.

Revival

The revival of Celeste Legaspi's "Mamang Sorbetero" is hip, upbeat but soulful. The melody is spunky but relaxed and in command.

"Dreams I Like," "In My Life" and "Don't You Ever Go Away" have depth and confidence. If you need a relationship or attention, listen to these songs.

With this album, you'll begin to start thinking about life and love in the real, adult sense. No nonsense, no frills, just the honest-to-goodness truth.

PLUS ONE. Strong message of faith, hope and love.

Katre Restaurant specializes in Mediterranean cuisine

AGUSTIN Cailao Jr. is an old friend. We grew up in Area 1, U.P. Campus where we shared many interests. Together, we swam competitively and also played basketball for the State high school team that hardly won any games. We also loved to pig out.

Same career path

Unknown to both of us, we would end up pursuing the same career path. We both took up Hotel and Restaurant Management and today are in the food business.

After graduating from college, Baroque or Barok left for the United States where he spent a good 15 years raising a family and sharpening his cooking skills. He worked for the Marriott hotel chain and he was an Executive Chef in one of their largest hotels in Washington D.C.

Tired of being an employee, he decided to head for home and set up his own restaurant where he is boss. He is now back as Chef Rox.

Out of this desire, Katre was born.

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

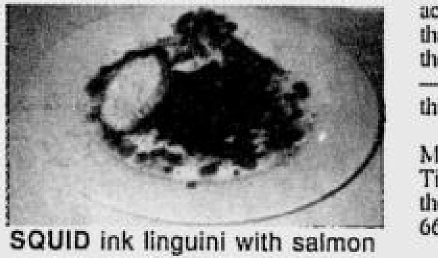
The name of the place is after his eldest daughter Katrina. He specializes in Mediterranean cuisine and a few others that can throw off any foodie.

Here's what I like about his restaurant: The thick onion soup is great. It is topped with hot, sticky, bubbly and melted gruyere cheese. He also recommends the cream of wild mushroom soup. I love the field green salad but I have the olives and capers removed. I prefer it with just feta cheese and grapes.

The grilled chicken and vegetable salad with hot chili, cilantro and garlic dressing will make your nose perspire. Also worth a try!

Among his appetizers, the bruschetta with borsin cheese and Calamari fingers are best-sellers. There are two pastas I focus on everytime I'm there. The Tucson pasta with salmon gravelox relish with capers, olives, anchovies in a light cream is delicious. I also love the black pasta. I have him top my pasta with a nice, crisp and moist fish filet.

Warning though, don't smile after eating this. Definitely worth the amusing smile after!



SQUID ink linguini with salmon gravelox relish.

Among the seafoods, the Pan fried pacific cod with squid risotto garnished with calamari in tomato coriander broth is a must.

Here's what I mean when I say "throw off any foodie". Out of a blind corner come the Adobo flakes. These are crispy fried and placed over a mound of garlic rice and fried egg. On the side are some chopped green mango and shrimp paste salsa(*bagoong*). Mix everything together and hum away.

Ask a regular customer, Mon about one of his favorites, the "carpaccio". These are slices of pork barbecue with a spicy vinegar sauce, sold at the karaoke bar right across. This is one of the few good things that come from this place. You should hear the voices that croon into that microphone — " *lalo kang made*-depress"It's a good thing Katre is sound proof .

Katre is on Scout Rallos st. near Tomas Morato in Quezon City. From Edsa, take Timog and turn left on Morato, it will be the first street on your right. Call tel. 374 6650.

Comes highly recommended! HAPPY EATING!

Matt Dillon showcases Cambodia in 'Banyan Trees'

(From page E1)

affection for the country.

Cambodia forms the backdrop for his latest film "Beneath the Banyan Trees," which he co-wrote with American novelist Barry Gifford. Dillon is also making his directing debut on the feature-length thriller.

"From a political standpoint, (Cambodia) was a mess ... But I thought, 'This is something kind of really fresh and has a beautiful sense of promise in a funny way' ... The people were wonderful, and it just stayed with me," Dillon, 36, told Reuters.

The ruggedly handsome American actor had been travelling around Southeast Asia in mid-1993 on a much-needed holiday after working on three movies back to back—"The Saint of Fort Washington," "Mr Wonderful" and "Golden Gate."

"What I was surprised about was how much I really had a good feeling about Cambodia," he said.

He returned regularly and used the country as the backdrop when writing "Beneath the Banyan Trees."

Ideas

"Ideas started to come to mind. Maybe it's just the way I work, putting together ideas from different places and different things. but it seemed to make sense—the idea of these crooks on the lam (run) in an exotic place where you could go and slip away and hide, the idea of redemption and Buddhism. It appealed to me, all these things," he said.

Providing a synopsis of the film's plot was no easy task, however, as it's full of twists and turns and various subplots, Dillon said.

"I used to be much better at telling this. When you need to raise money for the movie you become really good at trying to summarize the story," he said on location in southern Kampot, where the cast and crew of 110 regularly work 12 to 13-hour days.

The intricate story centres around Jimmy (Dillon). a young New Yorker involved in "blue-collar scams." When Jimmy is forced to flee the United States because of a federal investigation, he heads to Southeast Asia to find his mentor Marvin, a criminal mastermind played by James Caan.

When he finds out through an associate of Marvin in Bangkok, Casper, played by Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgard, that Marvin is in Cambodia, Jimmy heads across the border.

Although intent on telling Marvin that he's changed his ways, a series of events happen that draw Jimmy back into the criminal life and force him to confront his past.

Love interest

The cast also includes British actress Natascha McElhone, who plays Jimmy's love interest Sophie, and French actor Gerard Depardieu.

"I can honestly say that this may be one of the best casts I've ever worked with," Dillon said.

The cast also includes Cambodian newcomer Sereyvuth Kem, who plays Sok the cyclo driver.

DILLON. Directorial debut.

A motorbike taxi driver in Phnom Penh, Kem was asked to audition after Dillon met him on the street in the capital.

"I started to talk to him, and he had a real kind of energy, a real spirit about him. He was very funny, had a great smile and you could tell that he was very intelligent," Dillon said.

Dillon himself began his acting career when he was discovered in the halls of his New Rochelle, New York, junior high school while skipping class. The 14-year-old was offered a screen test and landed a role in 1979's troubled teen movie "Over the Edge."

"That's how it happened for me and here I am in Cambodia of all places and I meet this guy ... I put him through the same process that I went through," he said.

Dillon has acted in some 30 films, including teen flicks "Little Darlings" in 1980 and 1983's "The Outsiders," the critically acclaimed "Drugstore Cowboy" in 1989 and "There's Something About Mary" in 1998.

Now, the former teen heartthrob is behind the camera directing, something he's wanted to do for some time.

Options

"Acting is very competitive. There are few good scripts out there and the ones that are good are very competitive ... You look at your options and often times they're not too appealing," he said.

"Some days it's very easy, but to add the directing on top of (acting) — that can be tricky," he said. "I'm not always acting every day, and there is a big difference in the way I feel ... I feel a sense of relief and excitement that today I can just focus on what everybody else is doing."

"I have quite a bit of energy and I'm fortunate in that way. I don't get tired very easily," said Dillon, who regularly has a cigar in one hand and an iced coffee in the other.

"That said, it is taxing and I have some of my more taxing days ahead of me."

The low-budget thriller, which will be distributed in the United States by MGM/UA, could be in cinemas by the end of the year, Dillon said. *Reuters*

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PIC DEXTERBEGS
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Love and death go hand in hand in 'Valentine'

ON the most romantic day of the year, five young women are looking for the man of their dreams. Their hearts are racing… their adrenaline is pumping… but sometimes, you don't have to look for love.

Sometimes, it hunts you down.

Warner Bros. presents a psychosexual thriller to die for: "Valentine" starring Denise Richards ("the World is Not Enough"), David Boreanaz ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer") and Katherine Heigl ("Under Siege 2").

"Valentine" is set against the background of the tradition of Valentine's Day, a time when love is on everyone's mind.

"VALENTINE." Sometimes, love hunts you down.

Obsession

"Sex and love go hand in hand with death in all horror films," says producer Dylan Sellers. "You're already going into a holiday that focuses on the former, so it's only natural that death comes along for the ride too. Our story takes revenge and obsession up a notch. And that's what this movie is—these men and women desperately looking for love and crossing the line."

The film revolves around Paige (Richards), Shelly (Heigl), Kate (Marley Shelton), Dorothy (Jessica Capshaw) and Lily (Jessica Cauffiel) who grew up together, went through school together and shared their dreams of the perfect boy and the perfect future.

Lily is the school princess; Paige, the class bad girl; Kate is quiet; Dorothy plump and insecure. The four become a group and stick together, scorning the nerds and presenting a unified front to the school bullies.

"Junior high is the strangest time of your life," says Marley Shelton, who stars as Kate, "because in the grand scope it's only a few years of your life, but for some reason—I think a combination of puberty and all the changes going on—everybody really remembers those years.

Identity

"I do think that a lot of our identity is shaped during that time, and it does effect who we are, presently. So I think it's really great that this movie hits on that and, uses that as an engine."

Festival of suspense-thrillers at ArtFilm theater

THE SUSPENSE-THRILLER genre is catapulted into the limelight when Glorietta 4 ArtFilm, mounts "Thrillfest," a festival of prize-winning thrillers from the US, France and Germany.

The festival reeled off last April 25 with the edgy action-thriller "Black & White," a critically-acclaimed opus from independent filmmaker Yuri Zeltser.

Starring Gina Gershon ("Face/Off," "Bound") and Ron Silver ("Enemies, A Love Story"), "Black & White" tells the story of a rookie cop (Rory Cochrane) who finds himself assigned to a tough, sexy female partner (Gershon) who is legendary for her ruthless but effective style of law enforcement.

The pair begins investigating a dangerous and ingenious serial killer—and also begins a passionate affair. But when the rookie receives mysterious evidence, he starts to conclude that his own partner—and lover—is the prime suspect in the grisly murder case.

Next up is "Anatomy," the highest grossing film in Germany last year, and winner of the Audience Award at the German Oscars. Featuring "Run Lola Run" sensation Franka Potente and directed by Stefan Ruzowizky who wowed Cannes critics with "The Inheritors," "Anatomy" has been described by Variety as "creepy, sometimes gruesome, wide-screen fun that pushes all the right buttons."

A razor-sharp horror-thriller straight from the morgue, the film revolves around ambitious med student Paula (Potente) who feels lucky enough to be chosen as part of a prestigious anatomy course taught by a legendary professor.

"THE CRIMSON RIVERS." Infallible instinct.

But Paula's delight quickly turns to horror when she finds a young man she met only days before lying in front of her on the dissecting table! Despite all warnings, Paula investigates his mysterious death—even if it means putting her own life in danger.

The festival closes with "The Crimson Rivers," a riveting, mystery-thriller starring Jean Reno ("The Professional," "Godzilla"), directed by French *auteur* Matthieu Kassovitz.

"The Crimson Rivers" tells of two criminal investigations assigned on the same day, 300 kms apart, to two different policemen. Pierre Niemans (Reno), a cop with infallible instinct in criminal affairs travels to a university town in the Alps where a violent murder took place. Max Kerkerian (Vincent Cassel), a young rookie, is investigating the desecrated grave of a child who disappeared 20 years before.

The two investigations soon crash head on. The truth will outdo all the theories, taking the two policemen to high altitudes, caught between icy heights and death's door.

Musical flashback to the '60s in 'Recess'

CREATED by "Rugrats" artist Paul Germain and collaborator Joe Ansolabehere, "Recess: School's Out" marks the first big screen outing of the gang from the popular Disney TV show "Recess." In their feature debut, T.J., Vince, Spinelli, Mikey, Gus and Gretchen foil a plan to do away the thing kids love best next to recess, summer vacation!

Musical hits

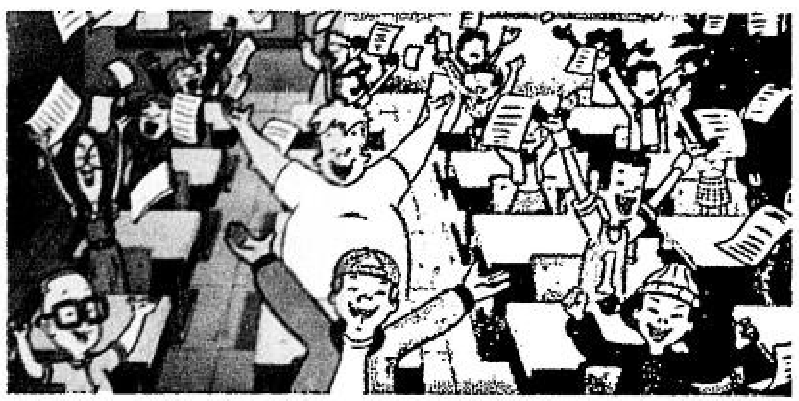
Adding to the fun of the film, Paul and Joe peppered the film's soundtrack with several musical hits from the 1960s. "Kids love the '60s," Joe says. "At Halloween, kids go out as hippies. They think it's cool. It's like when we were growing up in the 1970s and 'Happy Days' was on—we looked back on the '50s that way."

With this in mind, Joe, Paul, director Chuck Sheetz and the rest of the gang combed through their music libraries for hits from the 1960s to use as musical cues throughout the film.

The songs they found to complement Denis M. Hannigan's original score include "Dancing in the Streets" by Martha & the Vandellas, "Incense and Peppermints" by Strawberry Alarm Clock, "One" by Three Dog Night, Steppenwolf's "Born to be Wild" and "Let the Sunshine In" by The 5th Dimension. In addition, Hannigan arranged a new version of "Purple Haze" specifically for the film.

Serendipity

The filmmakers often relied on serendipity when choosing which songs would make the soundtrack. "Let the Sunshine In" was an eleventh-hour record pick that Paul and I simply decided to throw in, just so we would have something on the soundtrack for an executive screening," producer Stephen Swofford notes.


T.J., Vince, Spinelli and company make their feature debut.

"Like some of the other songs we picked, we just felt that it worked and we kept it in."

An additional musical treat in the film comes in the form of lounge legend Robert Goulet. Goulet has been gentle giant Mikey's singing voice since 1997, beginning with a television episode of "Recess" titled, appropriately, "The Voice."

'Rico' musical showcases Davao's homegrown talents

By Jeanne Lim

LAST Saturday, I watched the fourth and last performance of the Davao musical, "Rico." The auditorium of Davao Christian High School, with a seating capacity of 1,200 was almost packed with audiences of all ages.

Slum area

The set projected a section of Davao's slum area near the marketplace with the silhouette of San Pedro Church as background. The opening song, "Good Morning," brought the stage to life, with the cheerful song sung by Rico (John Bernard Hernandez), Teresa (May Mascarinas) and Cecilia (Shannon Soriano). A cast of 25, dressed in colorful costumes, carried props crafted for the market scene. All were singing and dancing, flowing in and out of the stage, creating a festive scene.

With music, lyrics and script by Rebel Villamor Magdagasang. "Rico" is a musical about a street urchin who shines shoes for a living. The city mayor's "Adopt A Child" project to find homes for 25 street children for the forthcoming celebration of City Day is the main theme behind the story.

Drug lord

As the story evolves, police Sgt. Ernesto (Ricardo Decena) is out to get the notorious drug lord, Ado Sose (Les Merquita). Little does Sgt. Ernesto know that his beloved Merci (Joy Duran), who works as a bar entertainer, is one of Ado's couriers.

Meantime, fearing that his name will appear on the list of the 25 street children and he might forever be separated from his buddies and friends, Rico decides that shining shoes won't bring him enough money. He wanders off to check on Ado and finds himself in the hands of his gang.

Sgt. Ernesto and his task force set up a big bust to capture Ado that same night. Caught in the middle of crossfire while attempting to save Rico, Sgt. Ernesto is shot and killed by Ado. The policemen kill Ado and Merci is apprehended as an accomplice for bringing in the buyer.

On City Day, the Mayor delivers a moving message to awaken the people of Davao to the plight of the street children, who fall victims to drug pushers.

Entertaining

Overall, the two hours sung-through musical is entertaining. It is a mixture of comedy, drama and suspense, with good sound and lighting. The audiences were overwhelmed by the show despite the fact that there was no name artist involved.

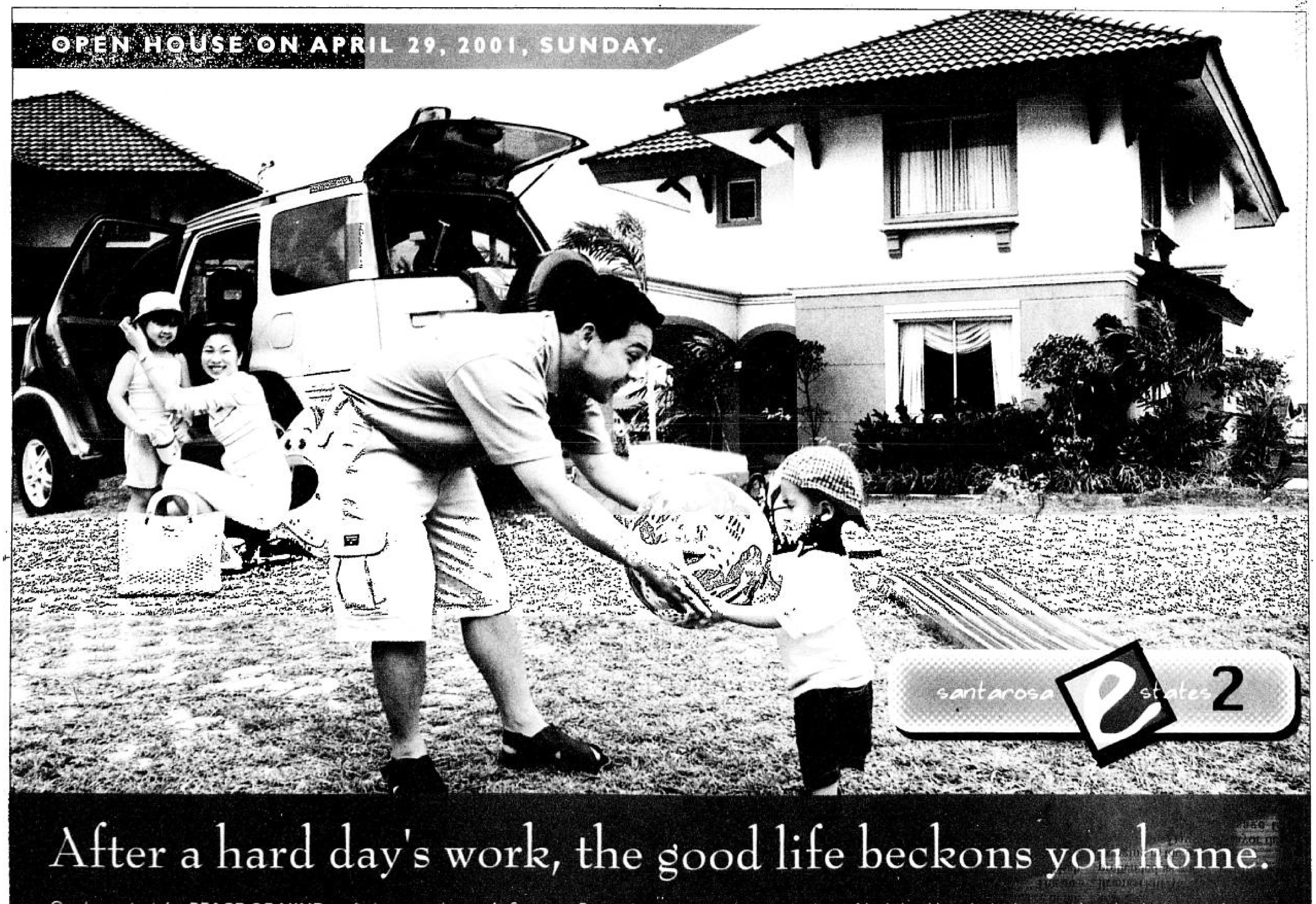
A production of the LCB Performing Art Center, "Rico" started auditioning for talents last August and rehearsals started last October. When I asked LCB owner Lu Chin Bon why he put up the show, he grinned, "I really don't know. At first, the idea was to come up with something that would showcase homegrown talents, with perhaps a few songs and some dances."

Then Rebel Magdagasang wrote the storyline, Bing Locsin agreed to do the choreography, and the rest was getting the guts to push through with the project.

Fun part

"I thought it was going to be easy, but it was not. I thought it is going to be fun, and I was right! The fun part was watching how things develops, how well you can work hand in hand with others, how you can polish a rough stone and turn it into a gem.

"With the moral support of people who believe in this project, things you once thought were impossible became possible. I'm not saying that the show is perfect, but it's a start. Everybody involved in this production gave his best. The applause from the audience is really music to one's ears!"



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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2001 ✦ 16 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 28

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

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Danger:
Imagination Takes Over Reality!

Six young writers now among TWERPS most wanted

By Christine C. Rivero

ON THE MORNING of April 3, 2001, the six students of International School Manila's Fifth Grade Young Writers Class were caught launching their very own books. As they proceeded with the prohibited reading of some of their work to their schoolmates; The World Eavesdropping Really (boring) Police System (TWERPS) detected severe warps in Reality. Fairy princesses and stomping giants ran smack into two unhappy electrons. A black night cat peeked out of every shadow. A kid woke up to find a gorilla in his bed. . .on a school day! Older sisters suddenly ran out screaming, clutching their cell phones, while a miserable anteater lumbered away, clutching a sour stomach. All six 11-year-old suspects, however, managed to evade capture.

WARNING: You are accessing classified information. These six suspects are wanted for the unauthorized and fantastic use of the imagination. Any contact with them can completely change the way you see the world. Proceed with caution.

Suspect #1: Wizard's Accomplice
Name: Marion Branellec
Illegal Publication: "The Wonderful Land of Mr. Imagination"
Known Facts: Marion admits, "I like writing about different lives of people. . .things that don't happen to you, you can put into someone else's life."

Aside from making up other people's existences, Marion has been charged with releasing the all-powerful Mr. Imagination. "He's the old wizard who produced the book. . .who controlled the characters to act," she says.

Though Marion claims she "just made him up," TWERPS is still conducting a thorough investigation.

Miscellaneous Info: A reliable source informed TWERPS that Marion intends to one day also conquer the music world with her own CDs and MTVs.

Suspect #2: Proud Nerd
Name: Jake Choi
Illegal Publication: "Beware: Priceless Treasures Ahead"
Known Facts: Jake proudly declares himself a nerd, "a person who's good at computing and likes studying all the time." Science is his forte but he says, "Learning vocabulary is like learning concepts in science. I just like it!"

Unless stopped, Jake will short-circuit the main frame of Reality with his hazardously fun stories about hackers, video-gamers and do-it-at-home computer programs.

Miscellaneous Info: Jake designs his own websites.

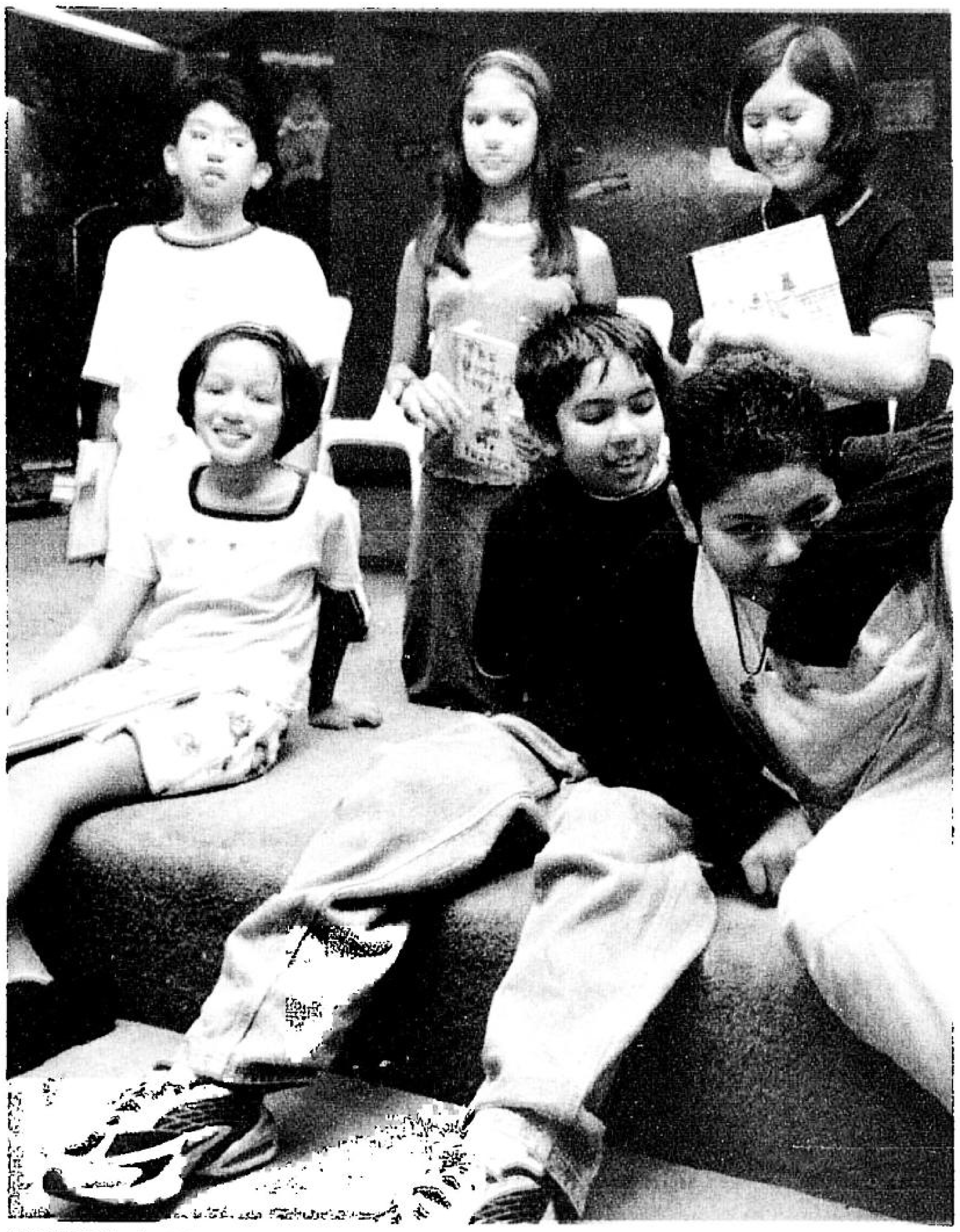
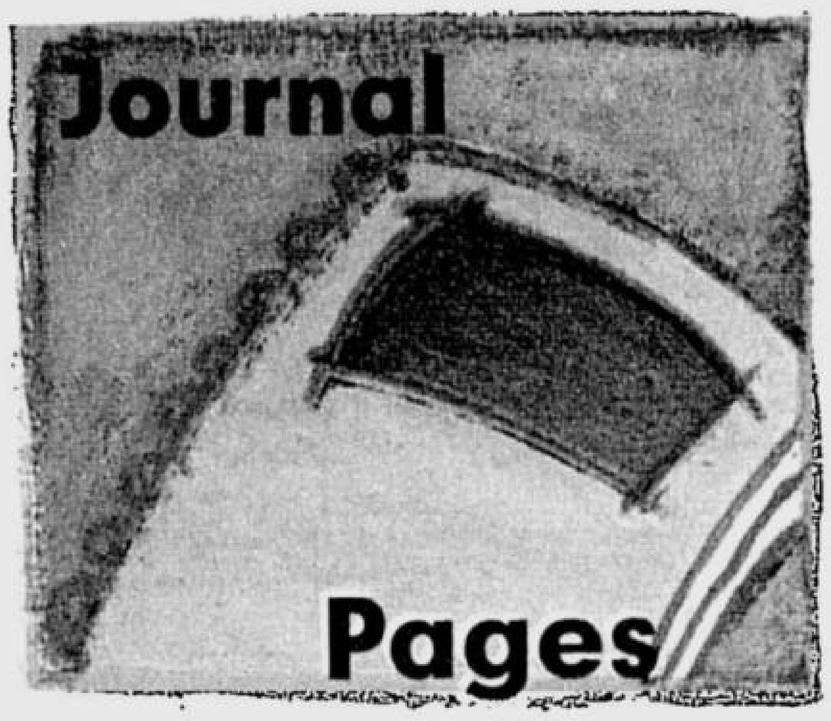


EXHIBIT 6. The six suspects (from left, first row) Regina de Luna, Alan Openheim, Alex Purdue. (From left, second row) Jake Choi, Marion Branellec and Nicole Garcia are shown moments before their book launch.

Photos by ROGER CARPIO

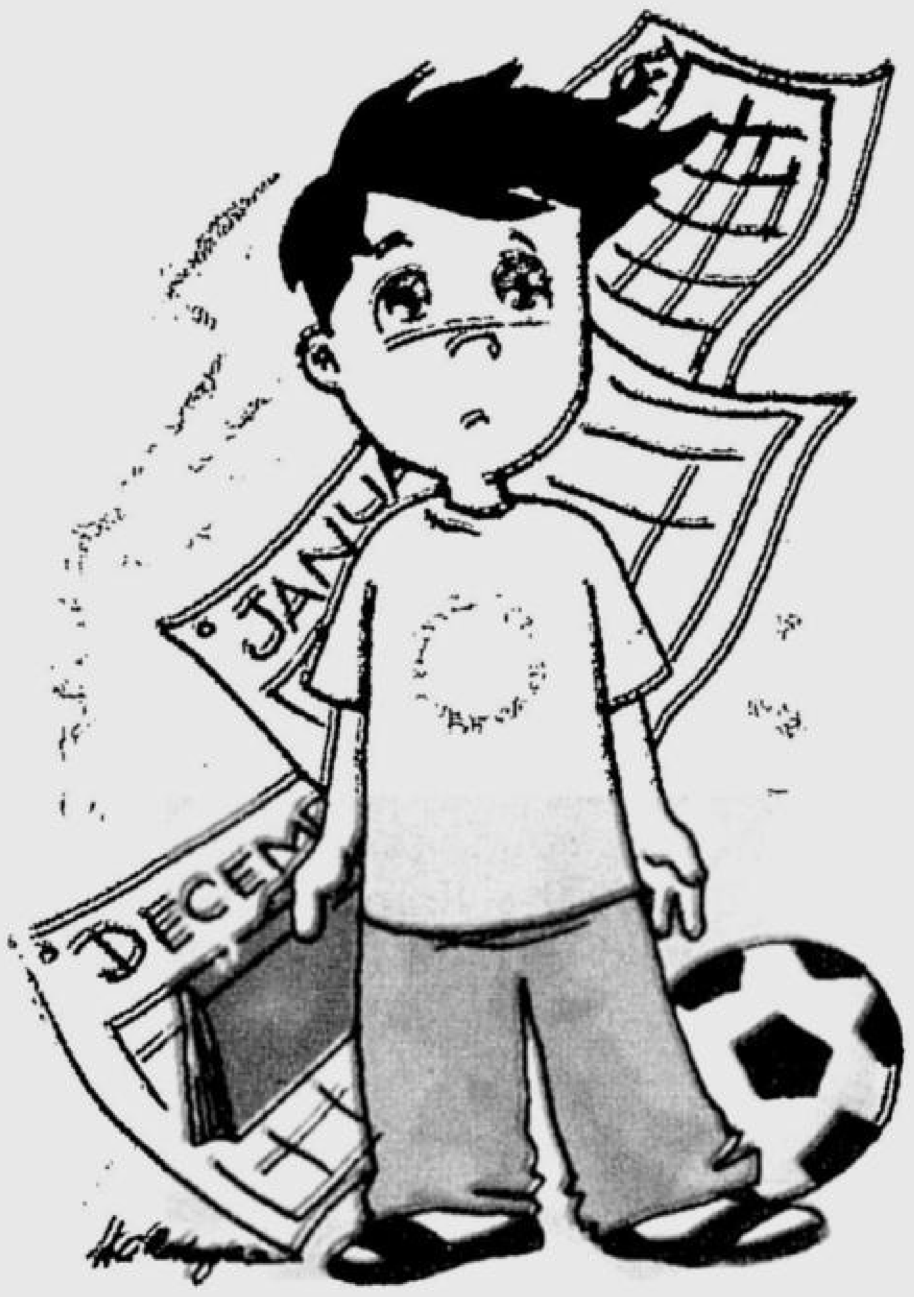
Danger/p.11



Journal Pages

One More Year. . .

AARON DANTE M. MAMIIT
LA SALLE GREENHILLS



ANOTHER stage of life has just passed by.

One more school year is over. One more year of solutions and problems. One more year of friendship and competition. One more year of exams and awards. One more year of achievements and failures.

It was just like a few weeks ago when I first walked down the hallway to our room. I had mixed feelings back then...I was excited because I'm finally in high school, but I was also depressed because I know there would be a lot of challenges ahead of me. But now that the year has ended, I realize that all those feelings are coming back...I'm excited because summer's here, but I'm also depressed because the family that our class had established would be torn apart.

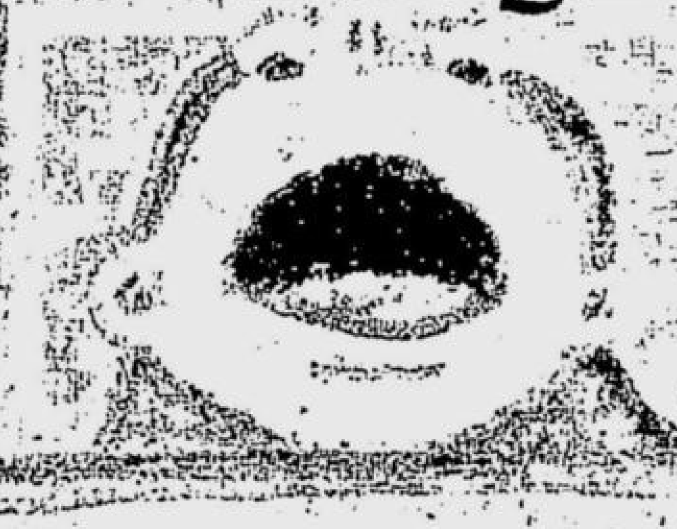
Every time I see my bag or my books, memories flood my mind. I remember when we were just starting the year, when we're talking to only the others who we already knew from grade school. I remember when we were halfway through the third month, when new friendships started. I remember just before the Christmas break, when we won gold in soccer in our intramurals as a team. I remember our last month, when we were all like a true family.

My heart is aching, knowing that this year is over.

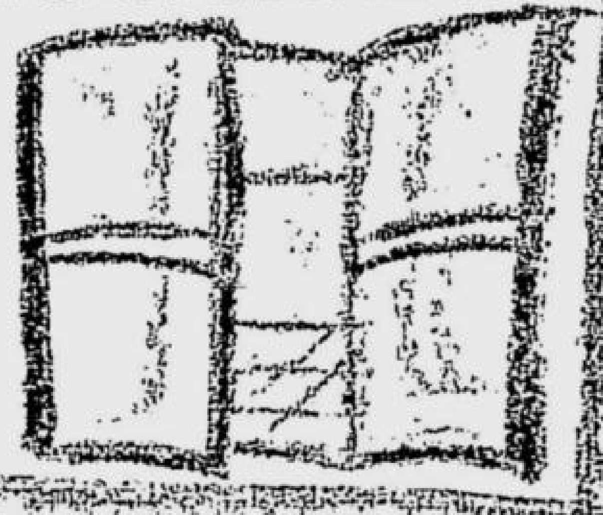
One more year has come to an end.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



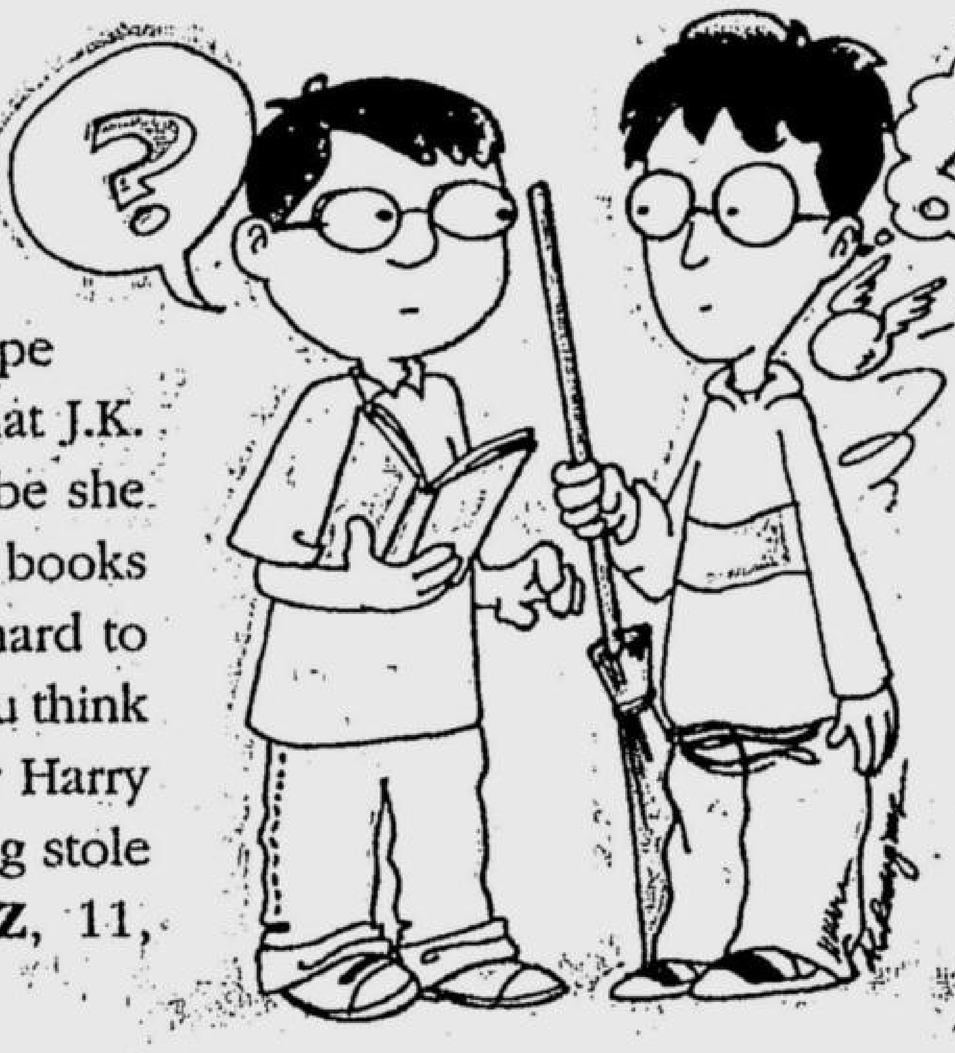
You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Who's afraid of Larry Potter?

DEAR JI,

I'm writing to you because of the Worldscope article on Harry Potter. I really don't think that J.K. Rowling stole the ideas of N.K. Stouffer. Maybe she just, you know, inspired by N.K.'s writing. Her books and Stouffer's may have similarities. But it's hard to think that she copied Stouffer's books when you think of all the amazing original details of her four Harry Potter books. That's why I don't think Rowling stole Stouffer's ideas.—**CHINNY JIN S. CRUZ**, 11, Assumption Antipolo



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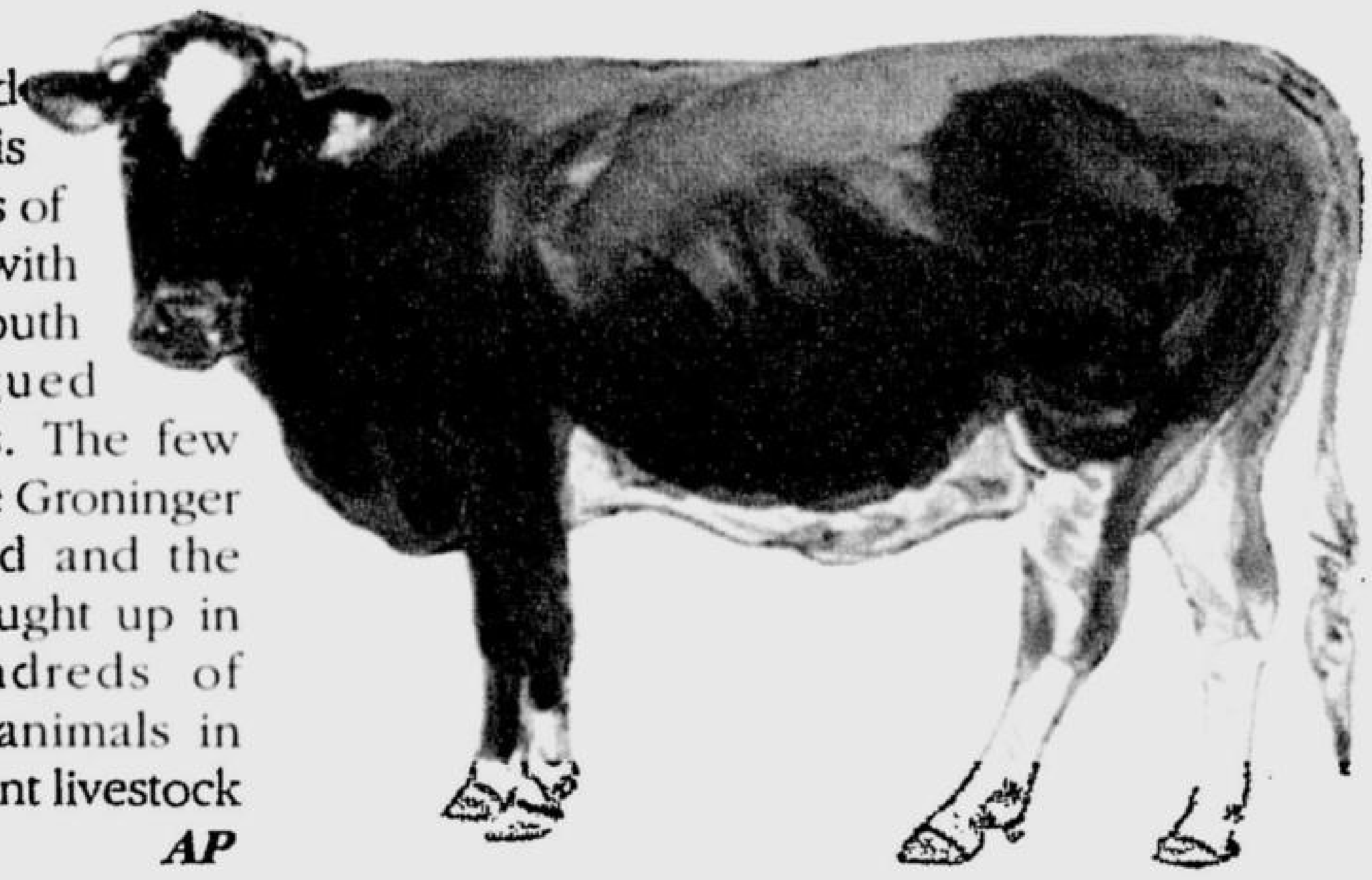
WORLD SCOPE

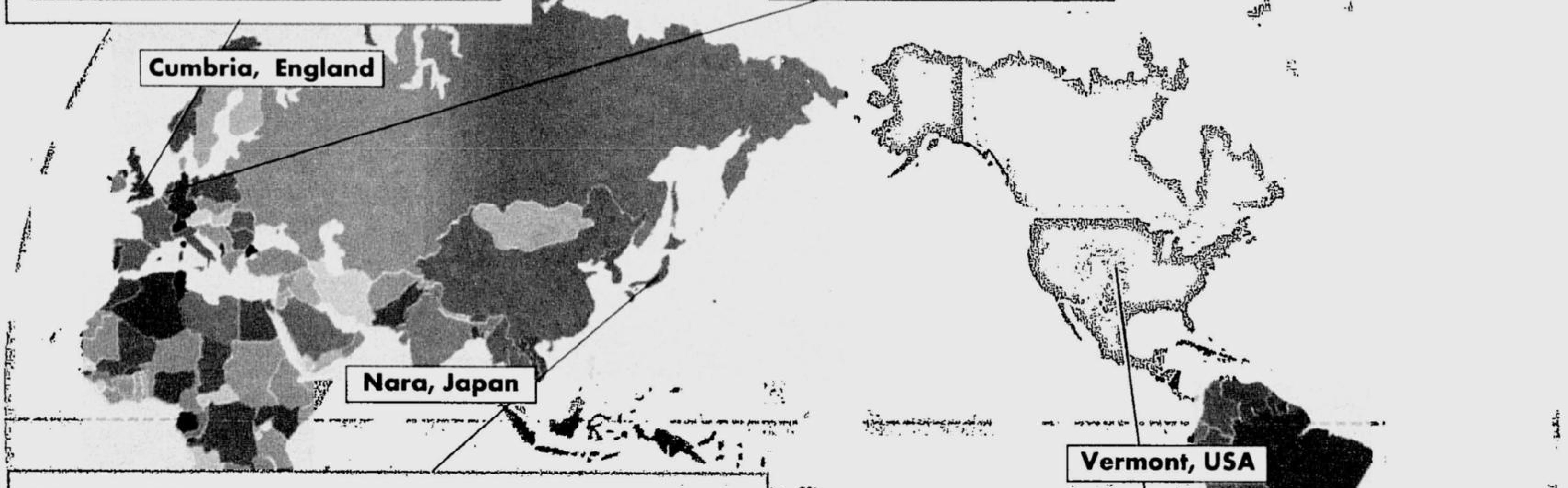
Foot and mouth epidemic

FLOWERS left by animal lovers stand at the entrance to a mass burial site for the culled animals infected with foot-and-mouth disease at Great Orton, Cumbria. Prime Minister Tony Blair postponed local elections Monday, scheduled for May 3, because of the foot-and-mouth epidemic. **AP**

The last moo?

THE DUTCH Brandrood cow, drawn by an artist, is one of several rare species of cows that are threatened with extinction by foot-and-mouth disease that has plagued Europe the past months. The few remaining examples of the Groninger Blaarkop, the Brandrood and the Lakenvelder could be caught up in the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of barnyard animals in efforts to contain the virulent livestock disease. **AP**





Legendary Japan bird

A MURAL of a legendary red bird called "suzaku" is shown in this photo taken by a digital camera on the south side of a chamber of an ancient burial mound in Asuka, Nara prefecture. Japanese journalists claim that this site is the first ancient chamber in which legendary animals—also worshipped in ancient China—have been found painted on all four walls. It's been found to date from the end of the seventh century to the beginning of the eighth century. **AP**

Rejecting TV

THOMAS Begley, 4, excitedly runs into the living room with a comic book while his brothers Jeremiah, 12, background, and William,10, (not seen) play a card game at their home in Georgia, Vermont. Their parents, who also home-school their children, decided to raise them without television, joining a 2 percent minority of US households without TV. **AP**

Workshops

WHOA DRAMA! Dulaang Balintataw's teaching staff together with noted theater artists and respected personalities from the theater, television, film and advertising fields will conduct the 11th Annual Summer Drama Workshops from May 1 to 31. For inquiries call up 373-1575 and look for Mr. Siegfred Sepulveda.

FREE LEARNING CAMP. Sacred Heart School-Sun Valley invites kids 1 ½-8 years old to experience a free summer learning camp on May 5 and May 19. Learn and have fun with activities such as singing, dancing, arts, crafts, storytelling, games plus a lot more. Call 823-1348 or 776-0312 for more details or visit them at 3690 Sun Valley Drive, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City.

GET BUSY THIS SUMMER! Join the Sacred Heart School's Summer Fun Activities starting May 7. The program includes reading and writing for kids ages 1.5-6.5 years old; arts, crafts and cooking for kiddies 2.5-6.5 years old; art workshop for young artists 5-12 years old; taekwondo for aspiring athletes ages 5-12; and learn the wonders of magic in their Young Magicians workshop open for kids 4-10 years old. For schedules and other important details call up 810-8506, 894-2273.

LET'S DANCE! Learn different types of dance in Dansa Studio Midsummer's Dance Workshop. Learn ballet, jazz, hiphop, ballroom and aerobics. It's open to kids and adults and will start on May 7. You can register until May 5. For info call 927-1928 or drop by 4/F Manna II Bldg., 33 V. Luna Ave., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City.

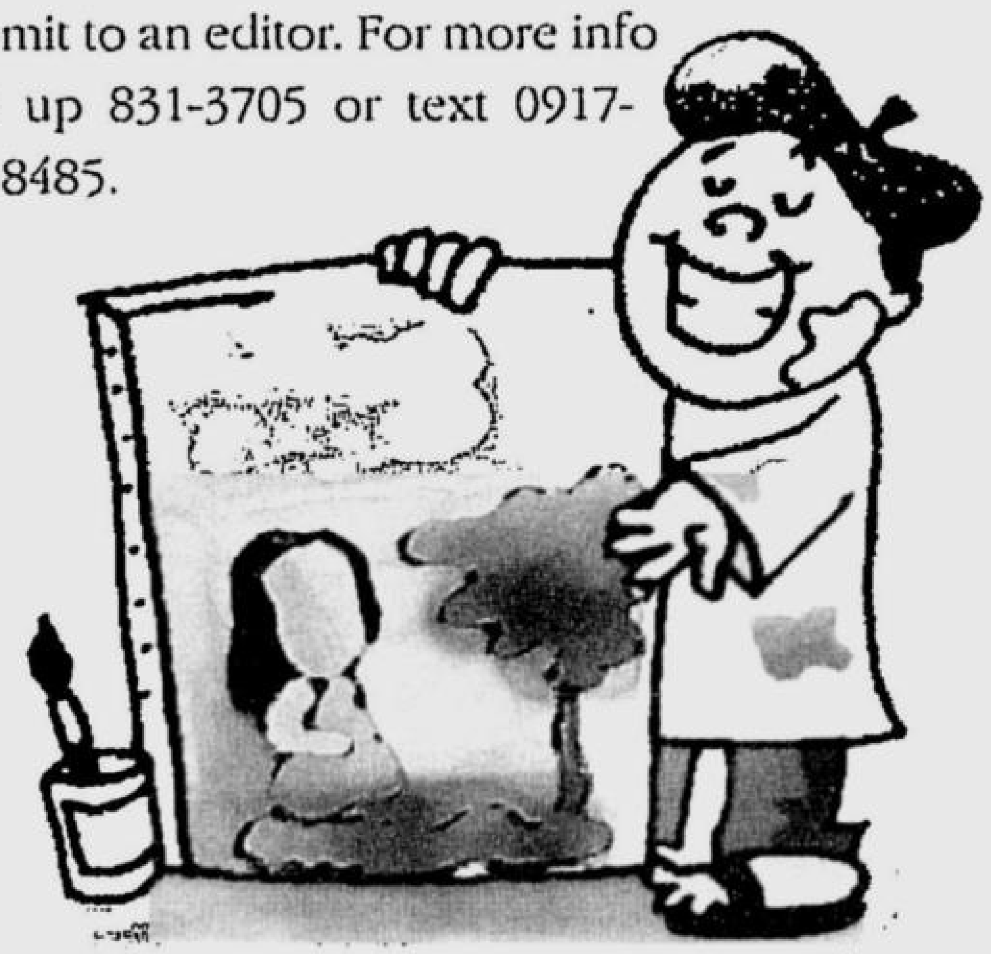
OUT THERE
By Margaux Ortiz

Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

UNIQUE ART COURSES. Art Pack has a series of workshops this summer for you to learn and enjoy. Tomorrow, learn to paint and decorate glass and bottles with transparent and translucent effects in Deco-Stained Glass Simulation calls. On May 6, in Mirror Frost Spectrum students will learn to design illusions of two-dimensional glass etchings and turn plain glass to priceless pieces.

FOR YOUNG WRITERS. Junior Writers' Club will hold a workshop for kids ages 11-16, on April 30 and May 2-4 at 1-4 p.m. at the 4/F Earthlite, COD, Cubao, Quezon City. The title of the course is "Training Children How to Write Manuscripts." The scope include children's fiction, non-fiction, and how to submit to an editor. For more info call up 831-3705 or text 0917-9418485.



Contest

WRITING AND ART COMPETITION. Tower Book House calls on all young Filipino writers and artists to participate in on-the-spot writing and art contests. There are three categories: children (ages 5-9); pre-teens (10-12); and teens (13-18). The winners will have their works published in a book plus special prizes. For details call 815-6925, 815-4938 or write to Ms Visitacion de la Torre, Unit 608 Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Stuff

LOON TOON. Collect Jack 'n Jill's Loon Toon Snaptoon. In every Jack 'n Jill snack, you will find colorful snaptoons of your favorite Looney Tunes characters. There are 60 designs for you to enjoy. So what are you waiting for? Grab your favorite Jack 'n Jill snack and collect the Loon Toon Platoon set!

Cable Picks

MOON RIVER. Man's endless quest for life in the universe has produced yet another puzzle. Last year, scientists discovered at least 20 more moons within Earth's solar system and found evidence that two more of Jupiter's moons may have oceans. Want to know more? Tune in to Discovery Channel tomorrow at 8 p.m. "95 Worlds and Counting" takes viewers on a breathless romp through the solar system.

ANIMALS ON INTELLIGENCE. Animal Planet has cooked up a series of features to better understand our animal pals. Tomorrow at 6 p.m. tune in to Animal Planet and watch "Animal Einsteins," where scientists had devised experiments to measure their intelligence. At 7 p.m. "Animal Intelligence: Naturally Clever" see how chimps use grass and twigs to fish for termites and use tools for their survivals. And at 8 p.m. "Wisdom of the Wild" takes viewers to a ranch where mistreated and neglected boys regain their lost confidence by working with horses.

EARTH PULSE. In connection with Earth Day, National Geographic Channel brings you "Earth Pulse," a series of exciting true-to-life tales of courage in conserving the earth's environment. Don't' miss it all Thursdays of May at 9 p.m. and you might get a tip or two on how to take care of our Mother Earth.

BEAR MAN. Meet an extraordinary man in National Geographic Channel's feature "Bear Man." A bear rehabber raised three tiny orphaned cubs to powerful, wild adult bears, and now one of them has cubs of her own. Catch it on NGC on May 1 at 10 p.m.

MIRACLE DOGGIES. Witness miracle dogs on "Dani-Therapy" on National Geographic Channel on May 3 at 9:30 p.m. A super doggie is trained to smell, detect and neutralize mine fields in war-torn Yugoslavia. Don't miss their adventures on NGC.

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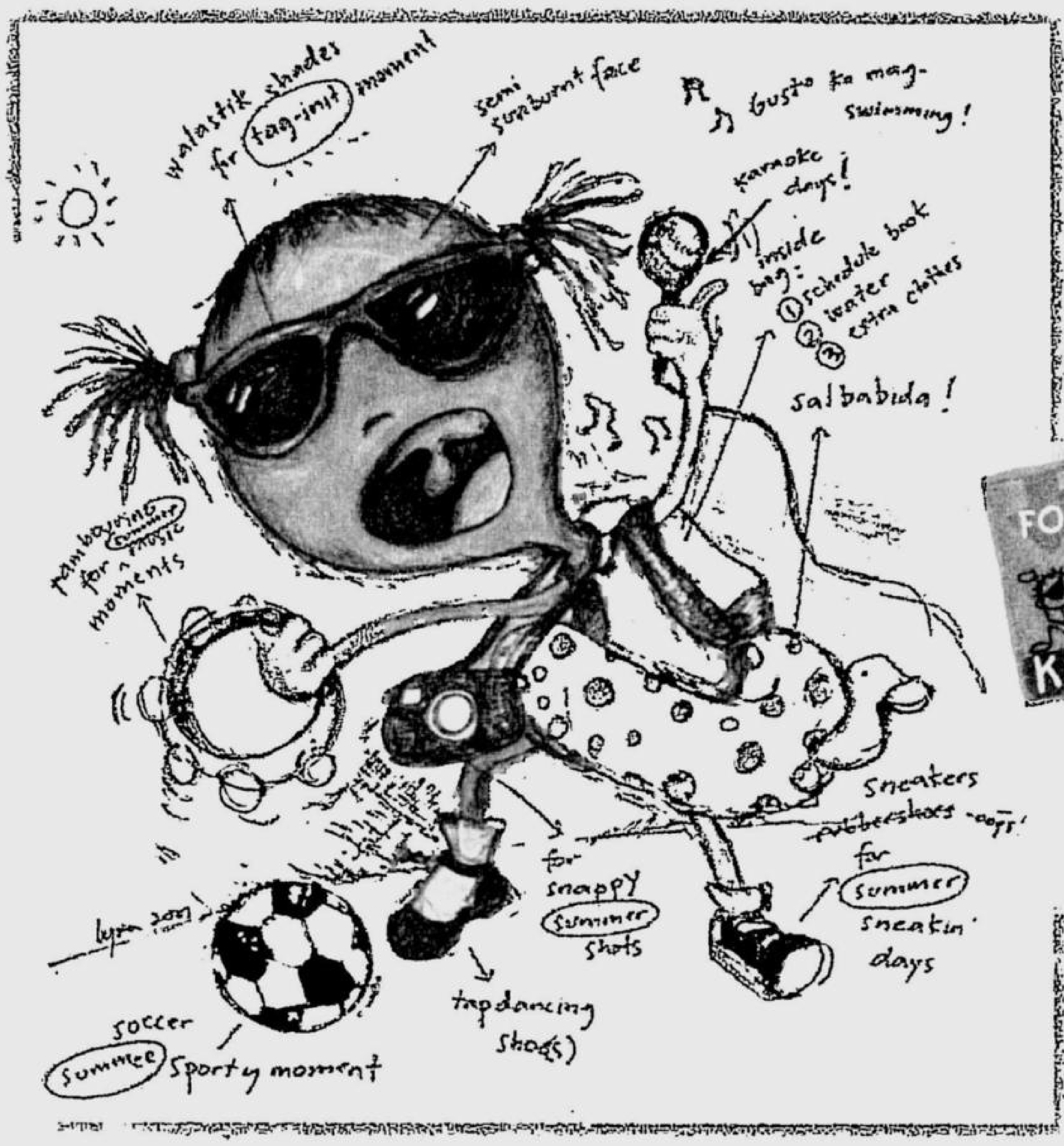
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gusto ko mag-swimming!
karaoke days!
inside bag: ① schedule book ② water ③ extra clothes
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for snappy (summer) shots
tapdancing shoes)
soccer (summer) sporty moment
lyra 2001

FOR or BY KIDS

Summer

BY MARGARETH CAMILLE MELITON
ILLUSTRATION BY LYRA A. GARCELLANO

It will not be boring
If you'll just go exploring
Some different things
That have sounds or rings

Students will free themselves
from books and bookshelves
They could also be engaged
in different activities
Like summer jobs,
summer classes or
just go to parties

All of us love summer days
Let's just spend them in
our own different ways
Why not learn to sing?
Well, never mind just do the right thing.

***Margareth**, 11, studies at Elizabeth Seton School.*

***Lyra** is the creator of "The Adventures of Atomo and Weboy. She is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan.*

Me and My Music

BY CRISTINA CAYABYAB
SCHOOL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
QUEZON CITY

MUSIC is my life.

When I was still a little kid, my parents exposed me to a lot of music. Well, both of them are musically inclined. I know that I was a big fan of the group called Smokey Mountain.

I remember myself exaggeratedly singing their song "Kailan" dressed only in my undies. I don't remember feeling embarrassed about this. I was only two-and-a-half years old at that time.

I started to learn playing the piano at the age of 5. My parents also enrolled me in ballet. When I was in the second grade, I joined the drama club. Then I started taking voice lessons when I was in the sixth grade.

As a freshman in high school, I led our class choir together with two of my classmates and we ended up joining the school group singing competitions. I am proud to say that we won all the contests! I even composed a song for one for the competitions.

My favorite competition pieces were "Tanging Yaman" and "When Doors Close," a song performed by the Smokey Mountain.

Now, I'm an incoming sophomore and it's still a long journey before I reach my goal. Some kids "I want to be a teacher." Others say they want to be scientists, astronauts, doctors, painters, newscasters or reporters. We all have our own dreams in life.

But all these dreams won't come true if you don't do anything about them.

You can probably tell by now that music is a big part of my life. I sing (I am a soprano), I play the piano. I also explore my other talents. I'm with the drama club in school, I can draw and paint. I'm not the best in any of these activities or pursuits.

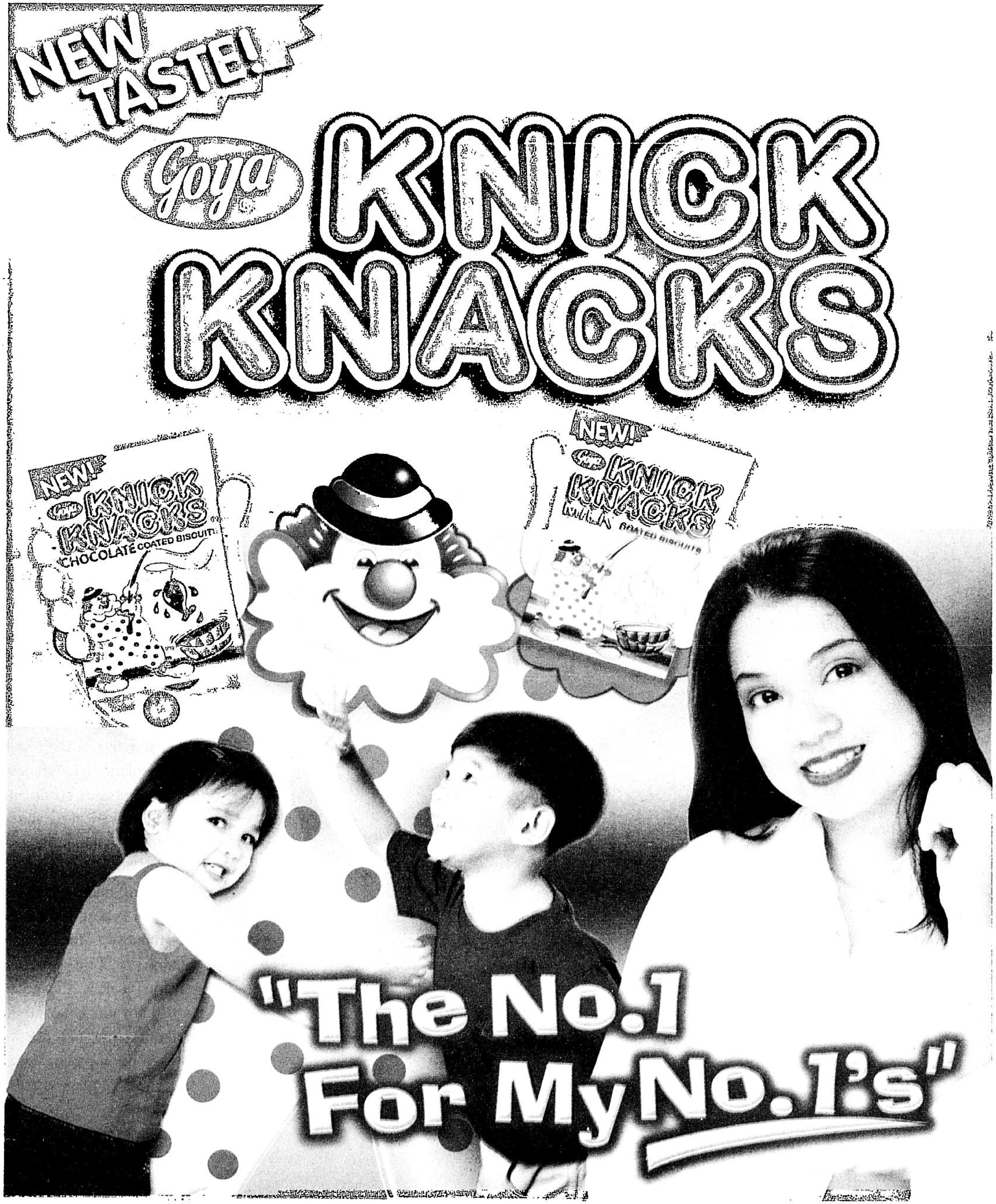
But I have a friend and classmate who gave me the inspiration to the piano and to sing well. She's so talented. She's so good in singing (she's an alto), she plays the piano well, and she acts too! She is a very good artist. I like her because she is my idol. I really have to thank her for what she has done to my music life.

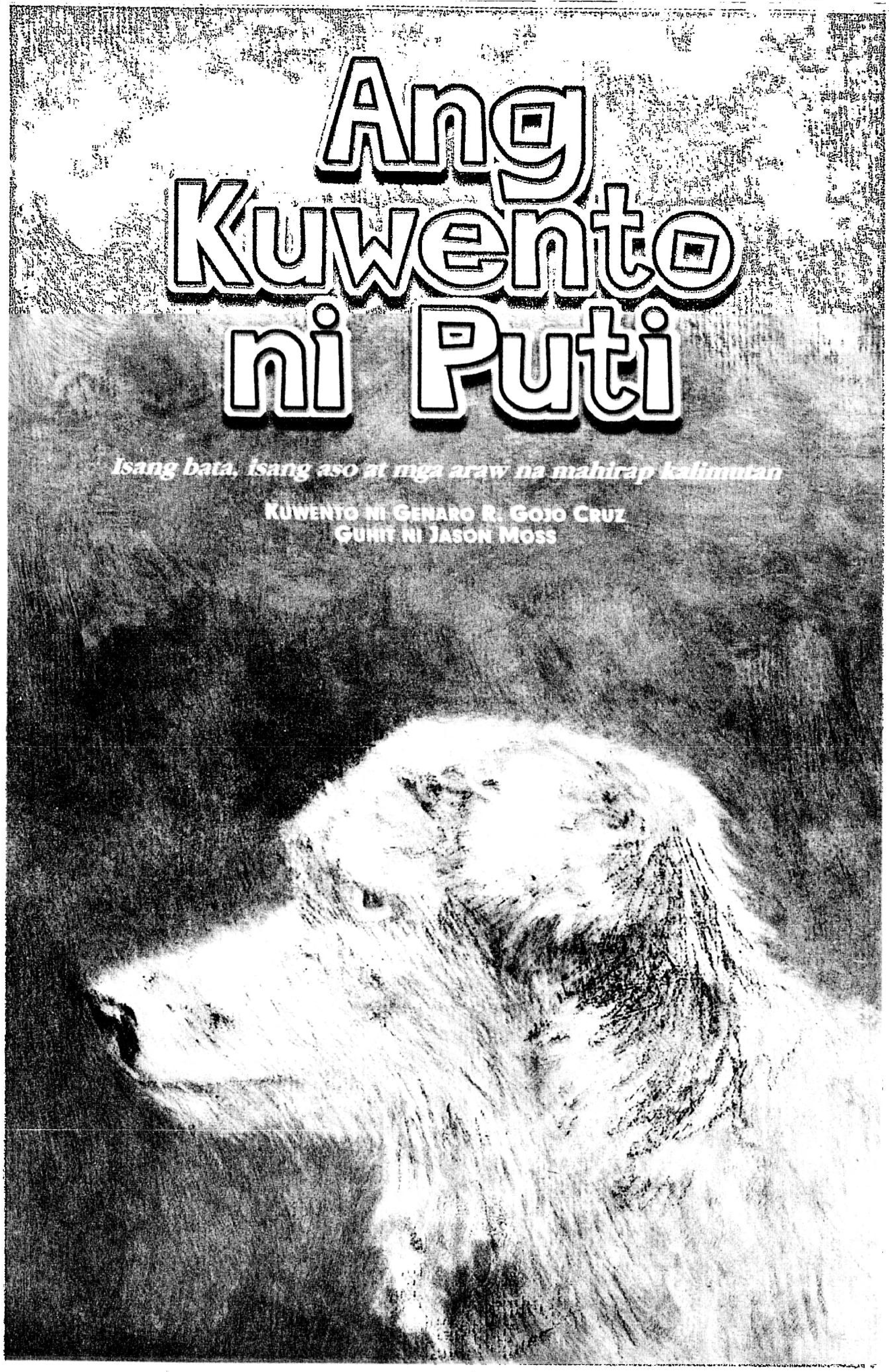
Playing music, doing music, it's not that hard to deal with music. Thank God there is music. Anyone can make or do music. It's a special talent given to us. All we have to do is discover this talent and then share it.

If you love music like me, there's something I'd like to tell you that might help.

Why don't you try piano, voice or other music lessons this summer? I know of a place where they teach music and movement for the youngsters, different kinds of workshops, lectures on how to deal with the hoarseness of your voice, and a whole lot more! All this at the Ryan Cayabyab the Music Studio! Why am I endorsing it? Oh but naturally! Mr. C happens to be my daddy!

For inquiries, you can call 844-3330, or 843-2874 or you can proceed to T-1B Sunvar Plaza, Amorsolo corner Arnaiz Sts., Makati City.


NEW TASTE!
Goya
KNICK KNACKS
NEW!
KNICK KNACKS
CHOCOLATE COATED BISCUITS
NEW!
KNICK KNACKS
COATED BISCUITS
"The No.1 For My No.1's"



Ang Kuwento ni Puti

Isang bata, isang aso at mga araw na mahirap kalimutan

KUWENTO NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI JASON MOSS

PAPAUWI AKO galing sa
makasalubong ko si Puti.
madungis at kulay abo na

Natakot ako sa kanya. Baka
mabilis. Sinundan niya ako. Kahit
rin siya. Nagmadali akong maka

Kakaiba ang langitngit ng ha
ikuwento ang aso. Iniwan ni In

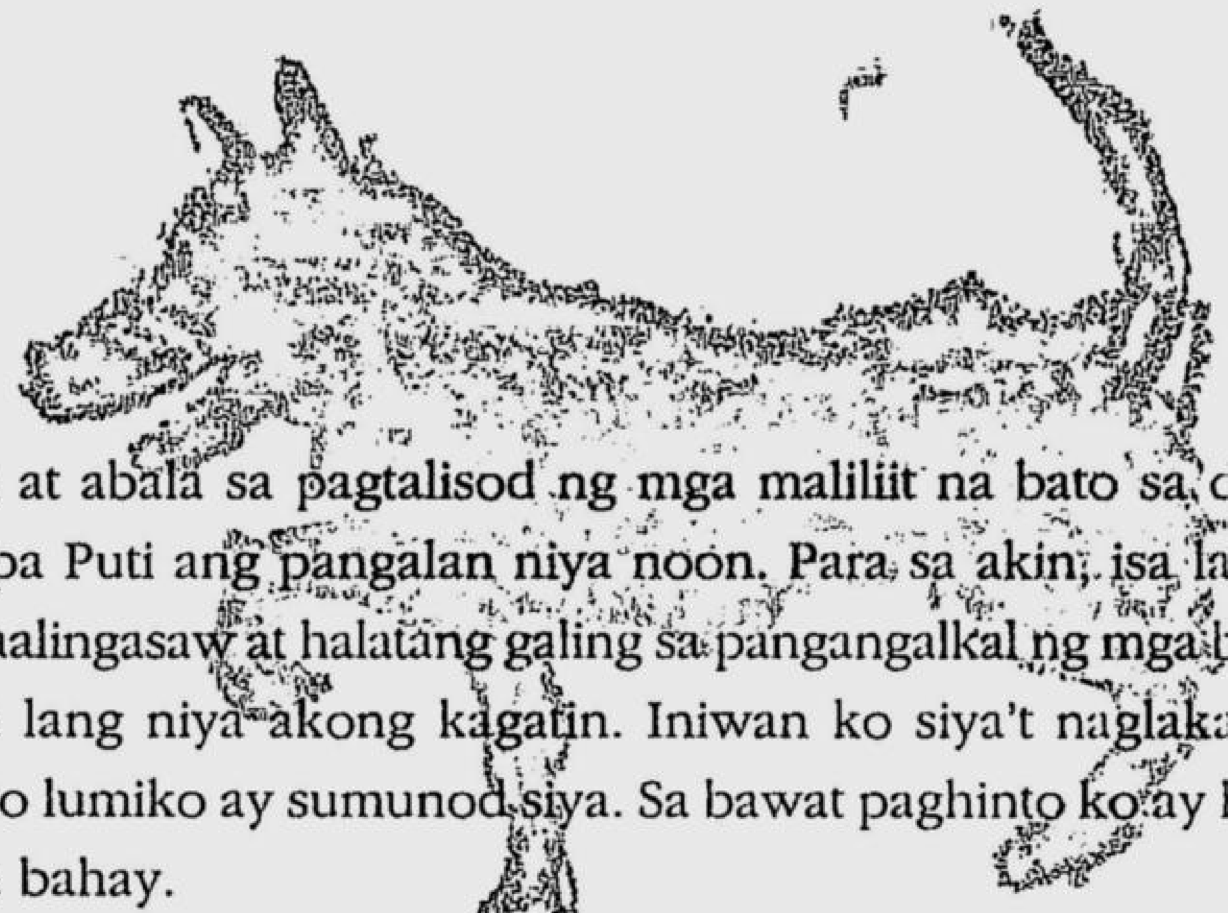
Nasa puno ng hagdan ang aso. Biglang sumilang ang ngiti sa mukha ni Ina. Hindi ko alam kung bakit. Nagbahag ng buntot ang aso. Lumapit siya sa amin at sinimulang amuyin ang aming mga paa. Umuungot-ungot siya na parang nagsasabing "pakainin ninyo ako." Takot pa rin ako. Aya
Pinapanhik ako ni Ina. Siya na
aso.

KINABUKASAN, pagkatapos ng
ako ni Inang na isalin sa kakani
tirang ulam at kanin. Nagulat
makita ang asong madung
umaalingasaw at halatang galing
ng mga basurahan na aso. Ngun

Nagulat ako sa aking naki
maputing-maputi ang naghihin
hagdan. Parang kasing-puti siya

Kumawag ang kanyang bunt
natuwa. Bibong-bibo ang aso.
siyang pinakain. Pinagmasdan ko
ang kanyang katawan ngunit
balahibo niya'y hindi mahahal
Simula noon pinangalanan ko si
puti ng mga ulap na paborito k

MULA nang bigyan ko ng pang
na sabik akong umuwi mula



skwela at abala sa pagtalisod ng mga maliliit na bato sa daan nang Hindi pa Puti ang pangalan niya noon. Para sa akin, isa lang siyang iso, umaalingasaw at halatang galing sa pangangalkal ng mga basurahan. igla na lang niya akong kagatin. Iniwan ko siya't naglakad ako ng saan ako lumiko ay sumunod siya. Sa bawat paghinto ko ay humihinto ating sa bahay.

gdan sa pagpanhik ko. Agad-agad akong nagtungo kay Inang para ty ang kanyang tinatahi. Tignan daw namin ang kinatatakutan ko.

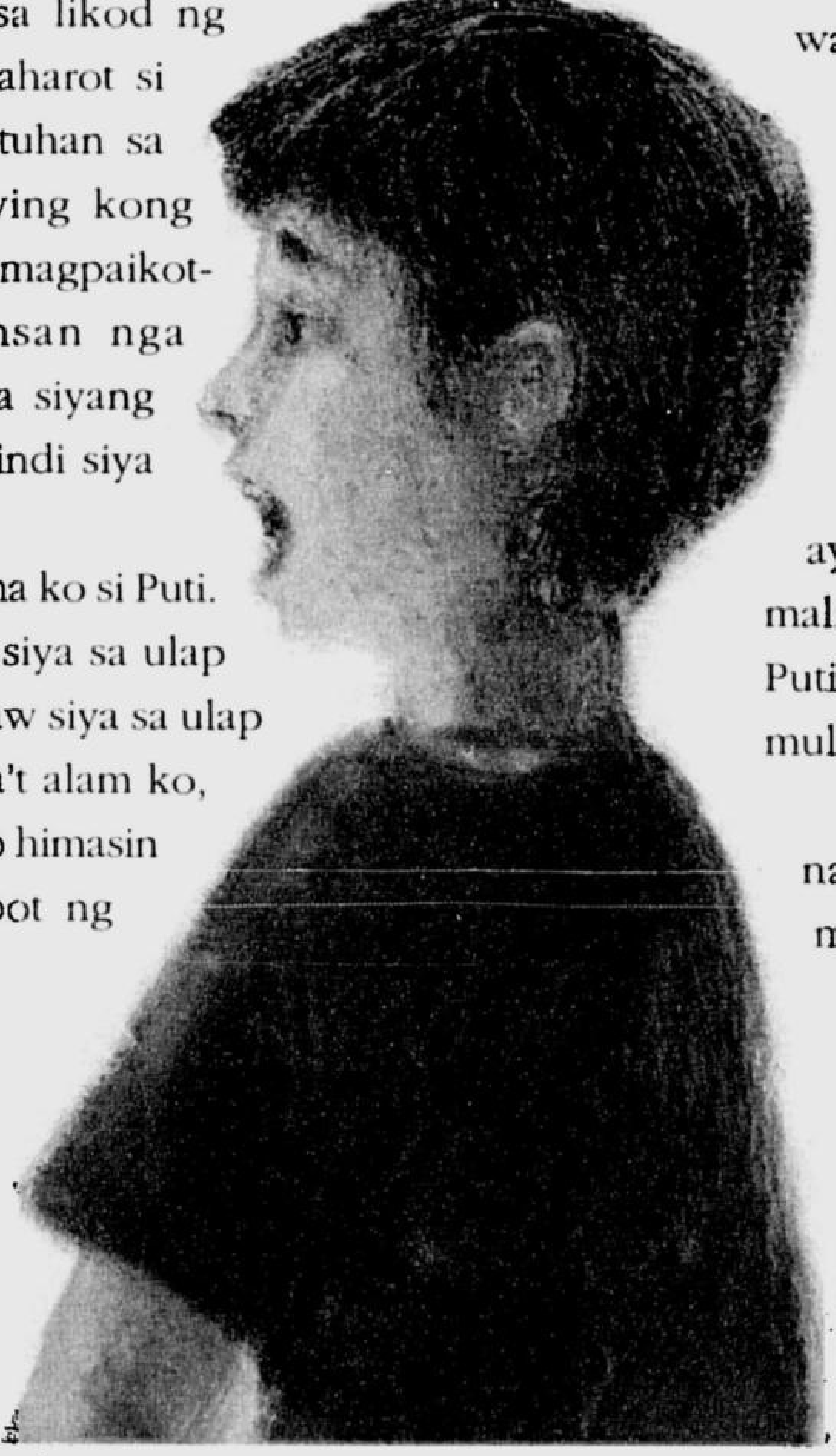
v ko sa kanya. w ang bahala sa

lmusal, inutusan ng aso ang mga ko. Ayoko nang s, kulay abo, sa pangangalkal t napilitan ako. a. Isang asong tay sa puno ng ng mga ulap. t at bigla akong bik na sabik ko ang aso: mahaba iya'y payat. Ang a kundi maikli. ang Puti. Kasing ng pagmasdan.

lan si Puti, sabik eskuwela para kami'y makapag-laro. Lagi niya akong inaabangan sa tarangkahan. Kapag natatanaw na niya akong paparating, tatahol at sasalubungin niya akong tatalun-talon at kumakawag ang buntot. Aamuy-amuyin niya ang aking mga paa. Siguro inaalam kung saan ako galing.

Madalas kaming maghabulan sa likod ng bahay, sa may bukid. Likas na maharot si Puti, katangiang labis kong nagustuhan sa kanya. Kahit anong bilis na gawing kong pagtakbo naabutan niya ako. Kahit magpaikot-ikot ako, gagayahin niya. Minsan nga nagkunwari akong nadapa at bigla siyang lumuhod na parang nadapa rin. Hindi siya kaagad napapagod.

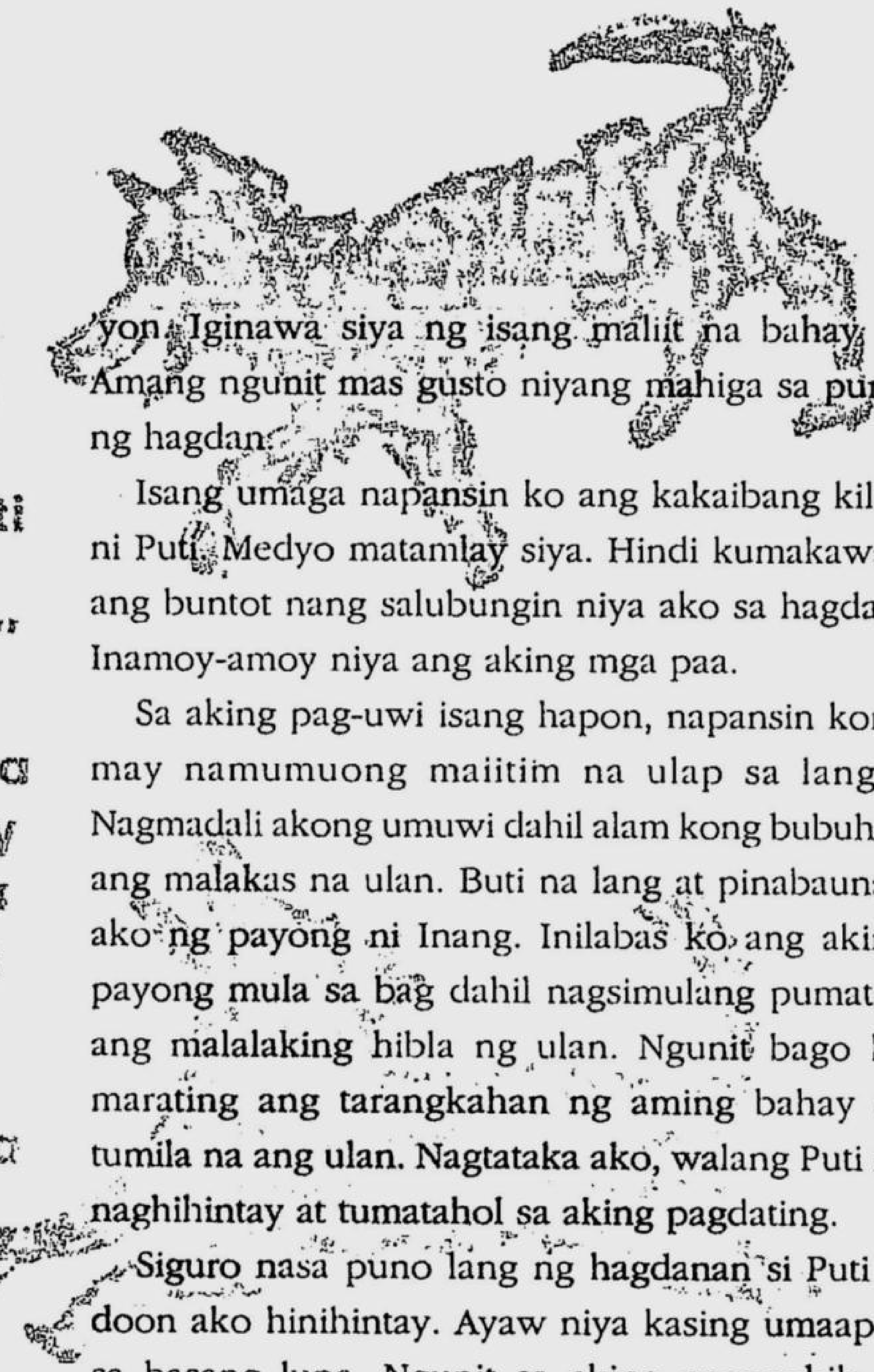
Kakaiba ang saya ko kapag kasama ko si Puti. Minsan nanaginip ako, galing daw siya sa ulap na sumusunod sa akin. Ipinaglihi daw siya sa ulap kaya't puti ang balahibo niya. Kaya't alam ko, bigay si Puti ng ulap sa akin. Masarap himasin ang kanyang balahibo, kasinlambot ng ulap sa aking panaginip.



HINDI ko siya nakakalimutang pakainin. Dahil alam kong hindi bilang kalaro ang tungkulin niya, taga-bantay rin siya ng aming bahay araw at gabi. Mahirap na gawain yon. Iginawa siya ng isang maliit na bahay ni Amang ngunit mas gusto niyang mahiga sa puno ng hagdan.

"Bibong-bibo ang aso...at kasing puti siya ng mga ulap"

"...bago pa umulan ay kinuha na si Puti ng tunay niyang may-ari na taga-bayan"



Isang umaga napansin ko ang kakaibang kilos ni Puti. Medyo matamlay siya. Hindi kumakawag ang buntot nang salubungin niya ako sa hagdan. Inamoy-amoy niya ang aking mga paa.

Sa aking pag-uwi isang hapon, napansin kong may namumuong maiitim na ulap sa langit. Nagmadali akong umuwi dahil alam kong bubuhos ang malakas na ulan. Buti na lang at pinabaunan ako ng payong ni Inang. Inilabas ko ang aking payong mula sa bag dahil nagsimulang pumatak ang malalaking hibla ng ulan. Ngunit bago ko marating ang tarangkahan ng aming bahay ay tumila na ang ulan. Nagtataka ako, walang Puti na naghihintay at tumatahol sa aking pagdating.

Siguro nasa puno lang ng hagdanan si Puti at doon ako hinihintay. Ayaw niya kasing umaapak sa basang lupa. Ngunit sa aking pagpanhik ay walang Puti sa puno ng hagdanan.

Agad-agad kong pinuntahan si Inang para itanong si Puti. Sabi niya'y bago pa umulan ay kinuha na si Puti ng tunay niyang may-ari na taga-bayan. Hindi na ako nakakibo o nag-usisa. Wala na si Puti, kailan man ay hindi ko na siya makikitang muli.

Naupo ako sa puno ng hagdan. Sa ilalim nito ay bakas pa ang katawan ni Puti. At may mga maliliit na puting balahibong naiwan. Wala na si Puti, kailan man ay hindi ko na siya makikitang muli.

Tumingala ako sa langit. At tuluyan nang napalitan ng mapuputing ulap ang kanina'y maiitim na ulap.

*Si **Genaro** ay tubong Bulacan at dating Patnugot ng Panitikan ng The Torch Publications, ang opisyal ng pamahayagang pangkampus ng Philippine Normal University.*

*Si **Jason** ay isang pintor at ilustrador.*

Mikey Clicks Away

With her camera, this energetic 10-year-old might just flash her way to fame

Kids'r'rrific

FUNNY is how friends describe 10-year-old Mikey, a.k.a. Milagros Katrina Manalo. They say she makes them laugh a lot and it's real easy to make her laugh too. Mikey also has a real big, bright cheer-up smile and when those around her see her, they can't help but smile back. For Mikey, that's great, especially since she wants to someday become a professional photographer.

Sneaky photog

"I like taking pictures," says Mikey who studies in Woodrose School, Alabang, "Sometimes I take pictures of people. Sometimes flowers and trees."

When taking pictures of people, Mikey likes to sneak up on her subjects (in case ya didn't know, "subject" is the photographer's word for the things they take pictures of.) That way they don't know that they're being photographed.

Says Mikey. "It's better if it's natural because they don't have to pretend to smile."

Mikey never took any photography lessons but she says she learned some basics by watching her uncle who happens to work as a photographer in New Zealand.

"During a weekend in Boracay, he took a lot of pictures," says Mikey, "he made sure everyone was in the picture and that the picture was focused."

All by herself, though, Mikey learned a very important photography lesson: "Don't make your hand shake so you don't cut off anyone's head (in the photo)!"

A Fashion and Nature magazine

This summer, Mikey hopes to take more pictures and put all her photos in an album. "I want to take pictures of nature and people having fun so that I'll always remember them," she says.

When she grows up, Mikey would really love to have her pictures seen in a magazine. "I want to work for a magazine that will use more pictures than words," she says.

Hmmm, sounds like either a fashion or nature magazine, we point out. Which one would she like better?

Mikey thinks for a moment then smiles her big, bright smile again. Still grinning, she says, "I'll work for a fashion AND nature magazine."

MIKEY dreams of becoming a fashion and nature photographer.

JESS YUSON

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____
____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at

____
____
____

and studies at

____

Her/his contact number is:

____

Sender's Name:

____

Sender's Age & School:

________, ____________________

Sender's Address:

____
____

Sender's Contact No.

____

Danger (from page 1)

Suspect #3: Renegade Reporter

Name: Ma. Regina de Luna

Illegal Publication: "A Little Something Just for You"

Known Facts: According to TWERPS agents, Regina was overheard to have said, "In your own book, you get to put whatever you want in it and no one can force you to do something you don't want."

Regina is wanted primarily for having been a reporter of the banned "Disdada Times," a newspaper about a land where all the fairy tales ever known are true. Her reports are now being verified by TWERPS.

Miscellaneous Information: Don't let her petite frame fool you. This girl can play a mean game of hockey and basketball.

Suspect #4: Fantasy Felon

Name: Frances Nicole Garcia

Illegal Publication: "A Garden of Writing"

Known Facts: Nicole is accused of writing about magical creatures, mysterious incantations and really weird pets. She once said, "I like fiction better than fact. . .so many things can happen in fiction that doesn't happen in fact and facts can get really boring." TWERPS investigators have considered that statement an admission of guilt.

Miscellaneous Info: If she becomes an archaeologist, Nicole says she'll try to discover facts that will make the real world more interesting.

Suspect #5: Medieval Meanie

Name: Alan Oppenheim

Illegal Publication: "Writing Metropolis"

Known Facts: In his book, Alan threatens copycats with the following: "If thou shalt copy this booketh then thou shalt be dippethed in boiling bean curd, choppethed by flaming axes and be fed to puppet piranhas in a sewage tank."

He furthermore freaks out cell phone-toting older sisters with his poem, "10 Best Ways to Annoy Your Sister" but his most lethal work is the eight-chapter medieval saga, "Zendaron and the Three Zios Gems."

Miscellaneous Info: Videogames and math occupy Alan's free time.

Suspect #6: Gross-Out Guru

Name: Alexander Purdue, but the suspect prefers to be called Alex

Illegal Publication: "Parental Advisory: Dangerously Cool Stuff"

Known Facts: Alex raised several Mass Reality Hilarity alerts when he listed the "10 Things You Shouldn't Even Taste." The list includes a football player's sock, a bottle marked "Warning: Extremely deadly poison. Keep away from anyone without a major death wish," and used toilet paper. Alex's rib-tickling stories has everyone, except TWERPS, laughing.

Miscellaneous Info: Alex has been known to enjoy extreme sports, rock music and giving his dad a "wet willy"—a saliva-soaked finger stuck in the hapless victim's ear.

UPDATE: The works of these writers have been stored for safe-keeping at the International School Manila Children's Media Center. As of today, TWERPS efforts to arrest these kids continue to be unsuccessful and all six remain at large.

The shooting of rare animals will remain unknown.

Unless we shoot back.

WWF

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

INQUIRER

HIS NAME'S MICKEY. And he works for Disney. He's an animator, not a mouse.

The Pinoy Mickey in Walt Disney

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROWENA M. BELOSO

"WALT Disney, this is Mickey speaking. . ." Mickey. . . Mickey Mouse? Nope! It's Mickey Ilagan, a 30-year-old Pinoy who's making waves in the Wonderful World of Disney in Florida as one of its youngest animators.

Roland Michael B. Ilagan started drawing long before he could spell his name. A native of Batangas, he has won several awards in both local and international art competitions.

Lots of awards

He was the grand prize winner of an international contest called Youth '90 and his entry was exhibited in California, in the United States. His winning piece also appeared a magazine that is sold in 14 different countries.

MICKEY AND MORITA. Mickey clowns around with US actor Pat Morita.

When the Pope came to the Philippines in 1995, he again won the grand prize in the World Youth Day art tilt. That's not all though! That same year, he bagged the Philippine Board on Books for Young People's annual Illustrator's Prize. It was for his illustration of Ompong Remigio's winning story "Buhahaha, Bruhihihi."

"Draw! Draw! Draw!" is what he advises young artists out there. "You'll never know where your imagination can take you."

Learning still

Lea Salonga was not the only Filipino to have been a part of the Disney Production "Mulan." Mickey happened to be the key assistant animator of the Emperor character, allowing him to rub elbows with "Karate Kid" star Pat Morita whose voice was used in the movie.

"I am very lucky to be able do what I like most, and get paid for it," he chuckles. "I never thought that what started as a hobby could take me to places I had never been to."

Although he's already a father to two kids, Mickey still wants to learn new things. He has been taking cinematography classes in Florida, where he now lives with his family.

"I want to do more children's book illustrations," he says. "I'd also like to direct an animated film for our Filipino kids."

With bright stars ahead and over him, Mickey continues to wield magic with his drawing pen to give life to his namesake Mickey—the world's most famous mouse—and other amazing storybook characters.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

*Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, **YOU'LL** get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ______________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my ______________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)______________;
2)______________;
3)______________;
4)______________;
and
5)______________.

My nominee lives at__________
______________.
Give him/her a call at__________
______________ or send him/her an e-mail at______________.
By the way, I'm______________
______________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
______________.
You may call me at
______________.

ThinkathoN
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Political Quotes

LISTED here are a dozen famous statements by noted political leaders and writers. A word is missing in each quote. Can you pick the right one from the choices given?

1. Manuel L. Quezon: "My loyalty to my _______ ends where my loyalty to my country begins."

◆ family ◆ religion ◆ party

2. Abraham Lincoln: "The ballot is stronger than the ______."

◆ bullet ◆ bully ◆ dollar

3. Winston Churchill: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and _____."

◆ brains ◆ sweat ◆ sympathy

4. John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your ______ can do for you, ask what you can do for your ______." (*same missing word*)

◆ conscience ◆ country ◆ voters

5. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their ________."

◆ hearts ◆ minds ◆ character

6. Nelson Mandela: "The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement. Let _______ reign.

◆ freedom ◆ democracy ◆ justice

7. Julius Caesar: "The ____ is cast."

◆ net ◆ vote ◆ die

8. Adolf Hitler: "If you wish the sympathy of broad masses, then you must tell them the crudest and most ______ things."

◆ foolish ◆ convincing ◆ stupid

9. Mahatma Gandhi: "________ is the first article of my faith."

◆ Godliness ◆ Non-violence ◆ Love

10. Lord Acton: "_____ corrupts, and absolute ______ corrupts absolutely." (*same missing word*)

◆ Money ◆ Politics ◆ Power

11. Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these _____ to be self-evident, that all men are created equal…"

◆ rights ◆ truths ◆ principles

12. Diosdado Macapagal: "Do what's right, do your best, and ____ will do the rest."

◆ fate ◆ people ◆ God

Answers:

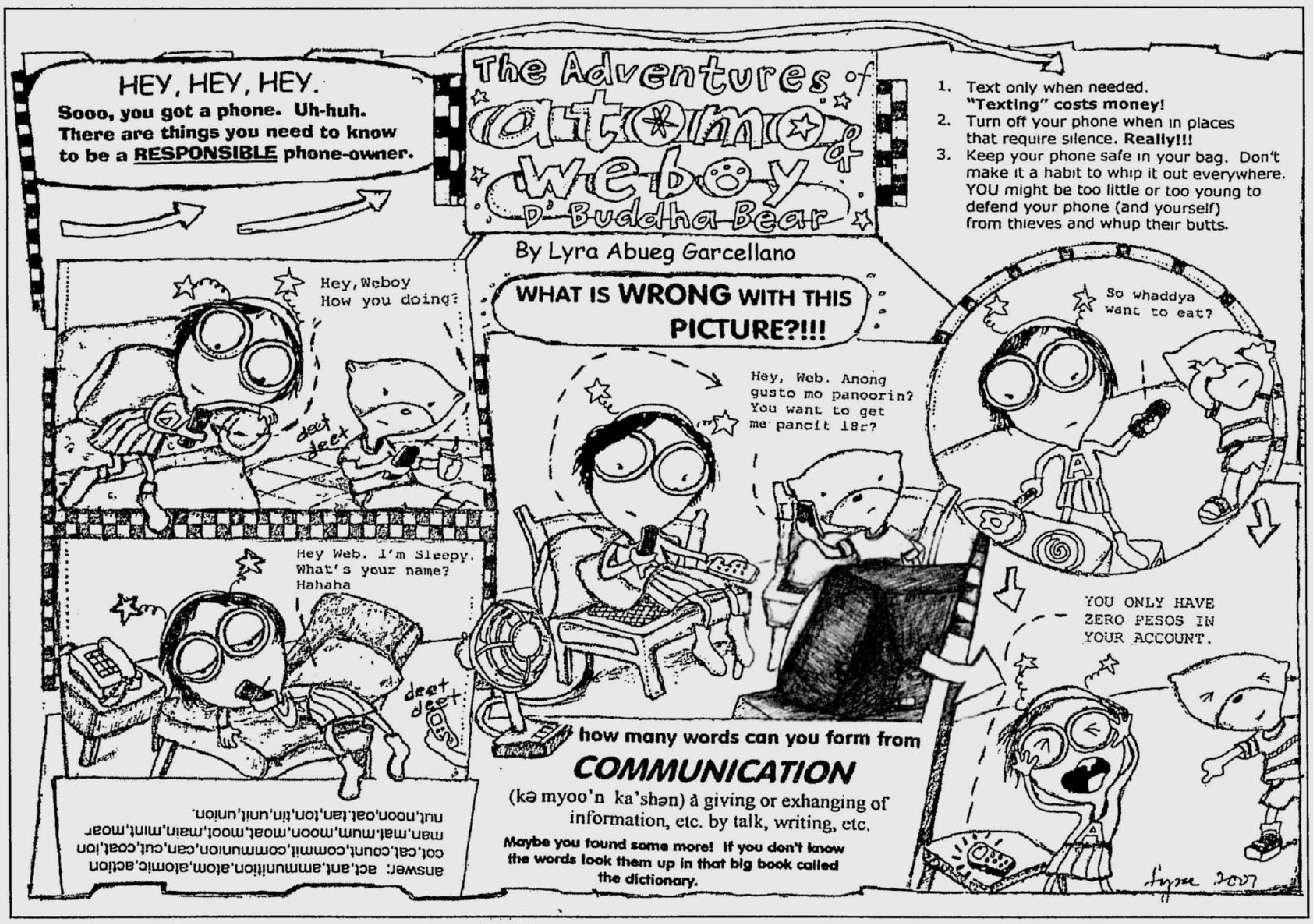
1.party
2.bullet
3.sweat
4.country
5.character
6. freedom
7. die (*the singular of 'dice'*)
8. stupid
9. Non-violence
10.Power
11.truths
12.God

Ratings :

superbrain!
11 - 12

excellent!
9 - 10

good!
6 - 8


The Adventures of atomo & weboy D' Buddha Bear
By Lyra Abueg Garcellano
Hey, Weboy How you doing?
deet deet
Hey Web. I'm Sleepy. What's your name? Hahaha
deet deet
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?!!!
Hey, Web. Anong gusto mo panoorin? You want to get me pancit 18r?
So whaddya want to eat?
A
YOU ONLY HAVE ZERO PESOS IN YOUR ACCOUNT.
Lyra 2001

HEY, HEY, HEY.
Sooo, you got a phone. Uh-huh. There are things you need to know to be a RESPONSIBLE phone-owner.

1. Text only when needed. **"Texting" costs money!**
2. Turn off your phone when in places that require silence. **Really!!!**
3. Keep your phone safe in your bag. Don't make it a habit to whip it out everywhere. YOU might be too little or too young to defend your phone (and yourself) from thieves and whup their butts.

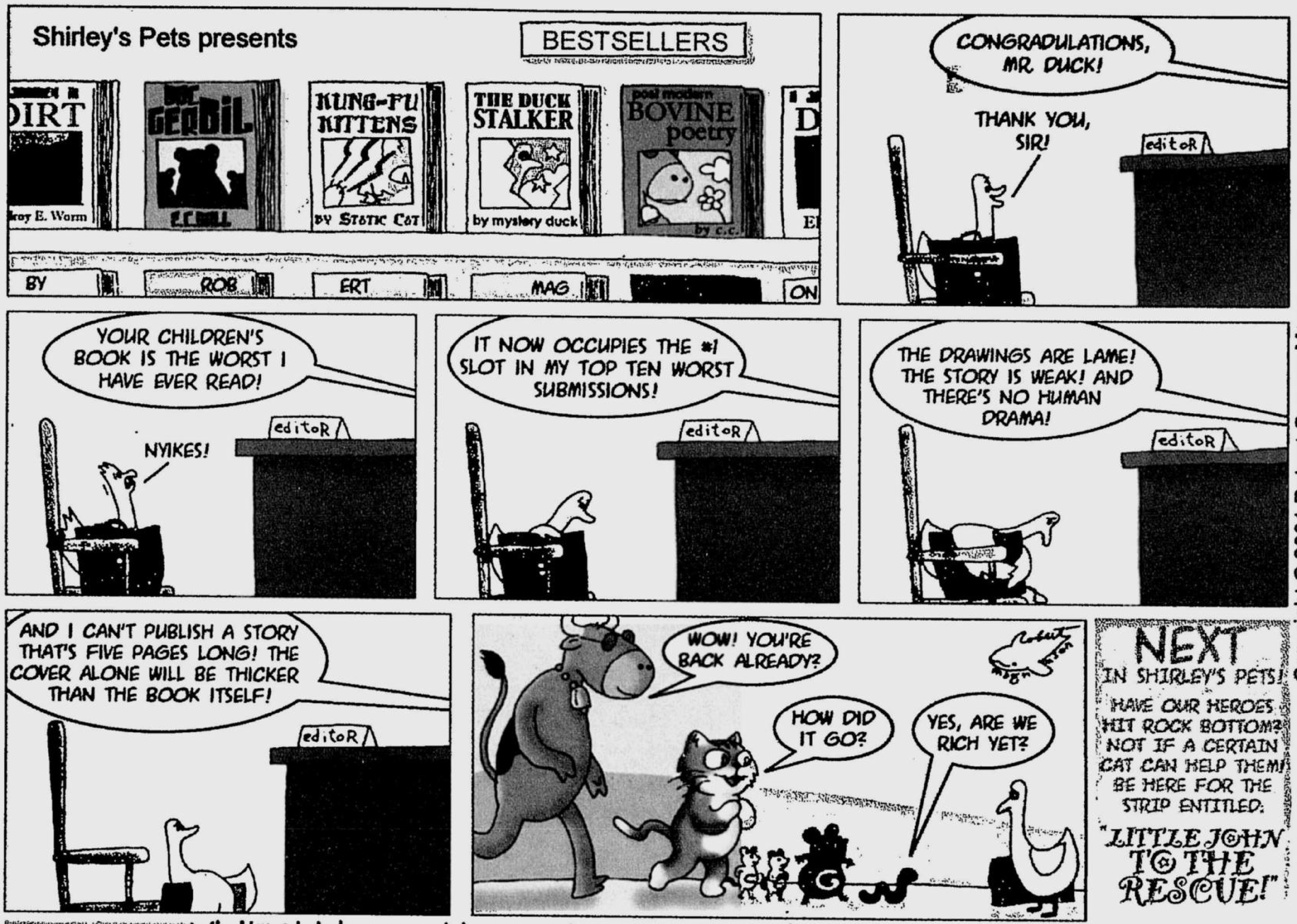
how many words can you form from

COMMUNICATION

(kə myoo'n ka'shən) a giving or exhanging of information, etc. by talk, writing, etc.

Maybe you found some more! If you don't know the words look them up in that big book called the dictionary.

answer: act,ant,ammunition,atom,atomic,action
cot,cat,count,commit,communion,can,cut,coat,ion
man,mat,mum,moon,moat,moot,main,mint,moar
nut,noon,oat,tan,ton,tin,unit,union.


Shirley's Pets presents
BESTSELLERS
DIRT
Roy E. Worm
GERBIL
F.C.BULL
KUNG-FU KITTENS
BY STATIC CAT
THE DUCK STALKER
by mystery duck
post modern BOVINE poetry
by c.c.
BY
ROB
ERT
MAG
ON
CONGRADULATIONS, MR. DUCK!
THANK YOU, SIR!
editoR
YOUR CHILDREN'S BOOK IS THE WORST I HAVE EVER READ!
NYIKES!
IT NOW OCCUPIES THE #1 SLOT IN MY TOP TEN WORST SUBMISSIONS!
THE DRAWINGS ARE LAME! THE STORY IS WEAK! AND THERE'S NO HUMAN DRAMA!
AND I CAN'T PUBLISH A STORY THAT'S FIVE PAGES LONG! THE COVER ALONE WILL BE THICKER THAN THE BOOK ITSELF!
WOW! YOU'RE BACK ALREADY?
HOW DID IT GO?
YES, ARE WE RICH YET?
Robert Magnuson
NEXT IN SHIRLEY'S PETS!
HAVE OUR HEROES HIT ROCK BOTTOM? NOT IF A CERTAIN CAT CAN HELP THEM! BE HERE FOR THE STRIP ENTITLED:
"LITTLE JOHN TO THE RESCUE!"

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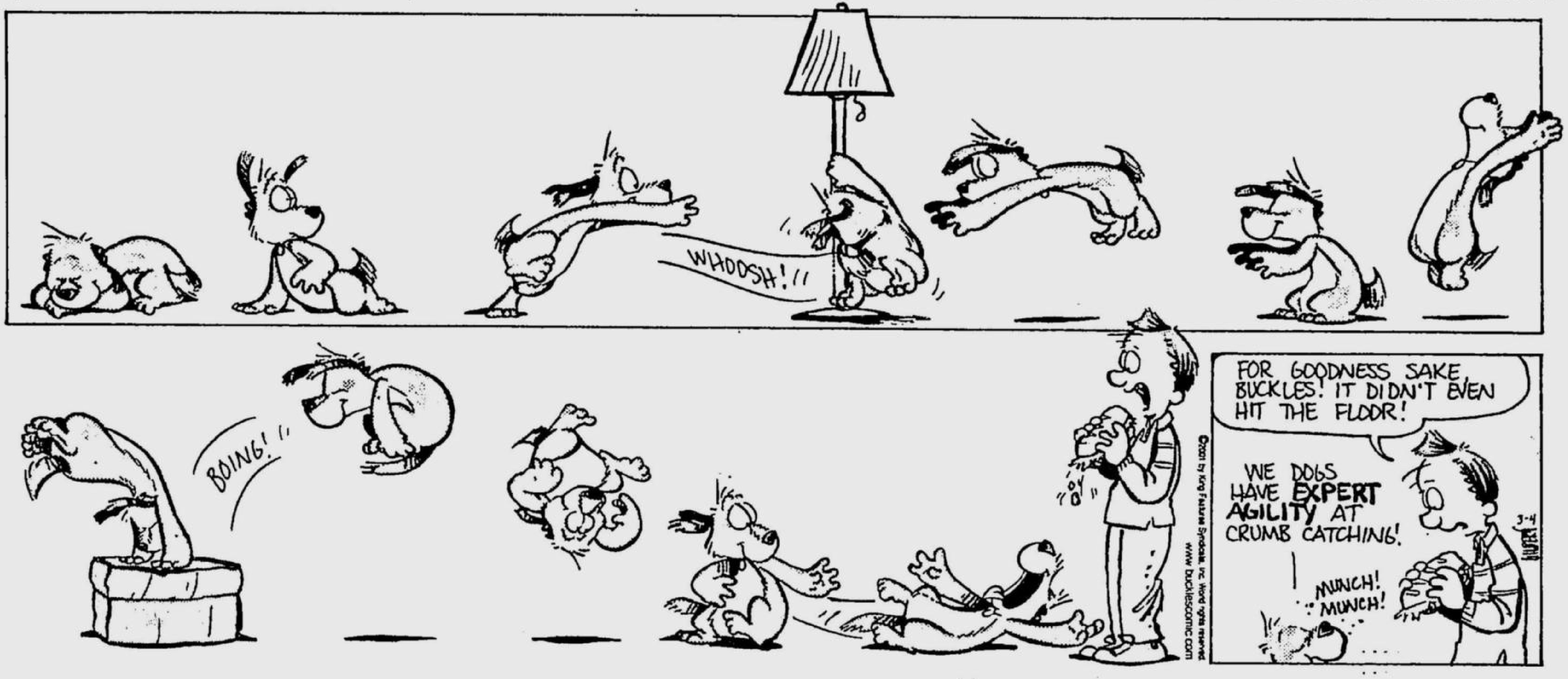
Visit Shirley and her pets at www.shirleyspets.cheesedip.com

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


WHOOSH!
BOING!
FOR GOODNESS SAKE BUCKLES! IT DIDN'T EVEN HIT THE FLOOR!
WE DOGS HAVE **EXPERT AGILITY** AT CRUMB CATCHING!
MUNCH! MUNCH!
3-4

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www.bucklescomic.com

Where have they gone?
What have they been
doing while away?
What new gimmicks
have they been planning
for their friends?
Check out this page
and find out!

Susy Geno

ACTIVITY PAGE

A page-full of fun ideas and mind-building games
from the comeback kids!

ACTIVITY 1

All-around Health, all-around the World!

Find out the places Susy and Geno visited the past year.
They can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally!

A	I	L	A	R	T	S	U	A
Z	U	B	X	E	A	T	D	N
E	S	J	O	G	R	A	N	I
M	A	L	A	Y	S	I	A	H
H	U	R	E	P	O	W	L	C
M	A	U	G	T	A	A	G	H
A	Y	A	W	R	O	N	N	I
L	A	O	S	E	I	R	E	L
I	N	D	I	A	N	U	W	E

Australia
Chile
China
Egypt
England
Eire
Guam
India

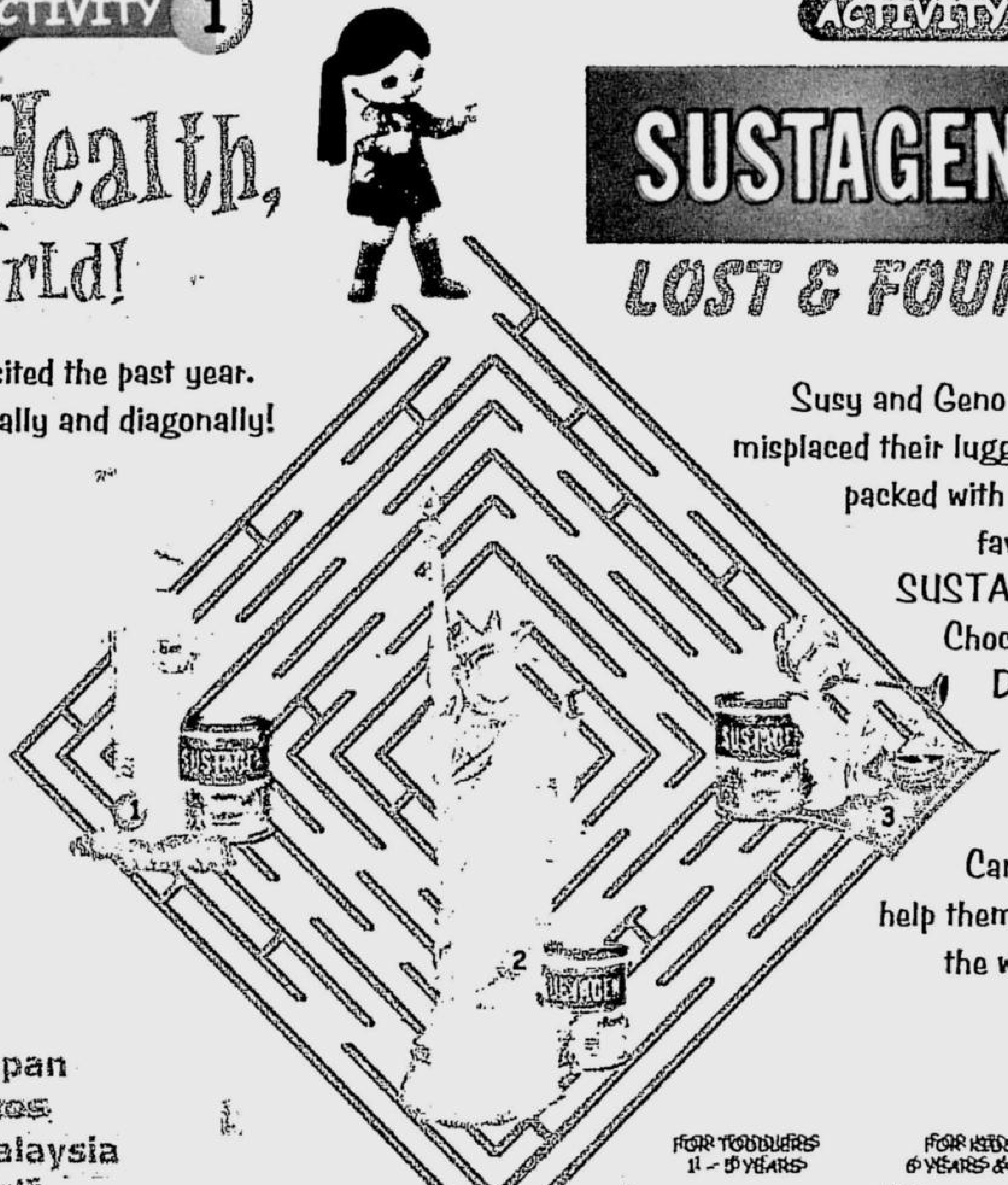
Japan
Laos
Malaysia
Mali
Norway
Peru
Taiwan
USA

ACTIVITY 2

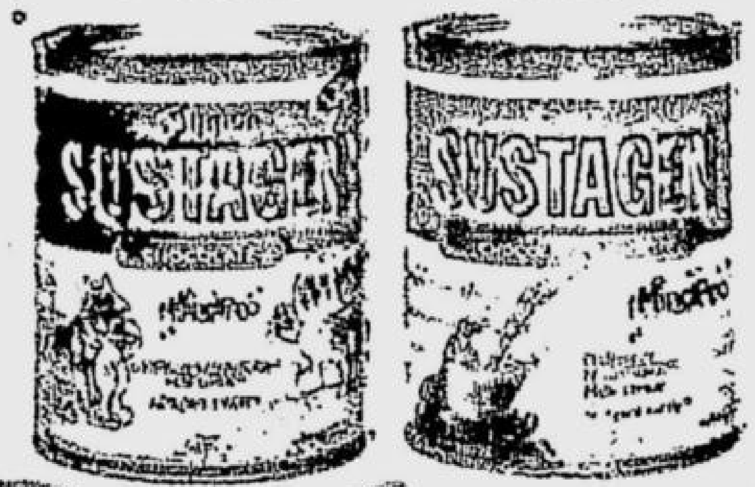
SUSTAGEN*

LOST & FOUND

Susy and Geno have misplaced their luggages packed with their favorite SUSTAGEN Chocolate Drink.



Can you help them find the way?



MeadJohnson
where good health begins

THERE'S A PRIZE IN MY PRETZELS!
JACK 'N JILL
chocolate
PRETZELS
JUNGLE JAMBOREE
JACK 'N JILL
chocolate
PRETZELS

Open a box of Jack 'n Jill Pretzels and get FREE WILD ANIMAL STICKERS! Scratch the back of the sticker and you could win exciting Safari Trips to Singapore and Palawan, plus Sony Playstations!

Congratulations to the first set of Winners

SINGAPORE SAFARI
Marvin Puerto & Family, Davao City

PALAWAN SAFARI
Cherry Baldemor, Cainta Rizal

SONY PLAYSTATIONS
Maria Nazarene Vicente, Quezon City
John Iseiah Dabu, San Juan, M.M.
Gene Ray Gomez Jr., San Juan, M.M.
April Flores, Marikina City
Susan/Ernesto Baila, Mandaluyong City
Rachel Anne Nobiejas, Tacloban City
Lloyd Anthony Neri, Cagayan de Oro
Nita Deavra, Cagayan de Oro
Mark Vivas, Iloilo City
Rosita Castro, Urdaneta City
John Arreza, Albuera, Leyte
Amalia Ico, Urdaneta City
Fernan Escobar, Pangasinan
Marci Aliza Andrino, Cebu City
Alvin Morales, Cebu City
Jan Mikhail Galawa, Cebu City
Lyndon Cris Fuentes, Cebu City

YOU CAN STILL JOIN & WIN!

- **1st Prize** - Singapore Safari 2 winners of a 3day/2night trip for 3 to Singapore
- **2nd Prize** - Palawan Safari 3 winners of a 3day/2night trip for 3 to Club Paradise
- **3rd Prize** - Sony Playstations with Dance Pad
- **4th Prize** - Jack 'n Jill Chocolate Pretzels Gift Packs

Here's how:
1. Get free wild animal stickers in every 40 or 70 gram Jack 'n Jill Chocolate Pretzels box. Behind every sticker card is a scratch and match game. Use a coin to lightly scratch off the three panels. If you get three prizes of the same kind on that card, you win!
2. Call the Jungle Jamboree Hotline immediately toll free 1800-1888-5455 or 864-8785 to know how to claim your prize.
3. For valid claims that are verified through the Jungle Jamboree Hotline, winners must present their winning card, a valid ID (school ID, driver's license, etc.) or proof of identification and the telegram sent to them. Only cards with authenticated security codes will be honored.
4. The promo is implemented nationwide. All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. Winners can only win once. In case a winner gets two winning cards, he/she gets the higher valued prize.
5. Prizes not claimed within 60 days after the promo period will be forfeited in favor of Universal Robina Corporation. In case of disputes, the decision of Universal Robina Corporation in concurrence with the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) shall be final.
6. This promotion is open to Philippine residents only. All employees of Universal Robina Corporation, McCann Erickson Philippines, Harrison Communications and their suppliers, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo. Nationwide promo until May 31, 2001.

SINGAPORE SAFARI SINGAPORE SAFARI SINGAPORE SAFARI

Use coin to 'LIGHTLY' rub up the 3 boxes above. Get 3 of a kind to WIN. See Jack 'n Jill Chocolate Pretzels pack for details.

Per DTI-BFAD Permit No. 0313 Series of 2000.